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[LD211455 Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Battle Reports—Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that Iraq's II Army Corps repulsed two Iranian attacks in the central sector, one during the night of 17 March and another the night of 19 March. The Iraqi command claimed that 800 Iranians were killed in the first attack and 1,200 in the second. However, Iranian military reports cited by IRNA denied that Iranian offensives had been repelled, asserting instead that Iranian forces inflicted 1,200 casualties on the Iraqis during "patrol-combat" missions in the Sumar and Qasr-e Shirin sectors.

As for the situation in northeastern Iraq, Voice of the Masses broadcast a communique announcing that Iraqi troops have attacked and occupied the headquarters of "traitor" Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. The headquarters, located in "rough mountainous areas" in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, was overrun after a battle on 19 March, and the commander of the force guarding it was captured, along with other "traitors and misguided elements." The communique accused Talabani's group of helping Iranian forces enter the Halabjah area. "Thousands" of Kurds held "spontaneous" marches in Irbil to celebrate the occupation of Talabani's headquarters, Voice of the Masses reported.

For Iran's part, Tehran radio announced that Iranian fighters "liberated" another 10 villages in the southeastern region of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province over the weekend. An 18 March communique carried by the radio increased estimated Iraqi losses in the "Val-Fajr-10" offensive to 9,200 casualties and over 4,000 captured.

Missile, Air, Naval Attacks—Iraq fired three more missiles at Tehran over the weekend, two on 19 March and the third the following day, according to announcements over Voice of the Masses. IRNA announced the following missile strikes on Iraqi targets: 1 at Mosul, 2 at Kirkuk, 1 at Khanaqin and 1 at President Saddam Husayn's home town of Tikrit 18 March; 3 at Baghdad, 1 at Al-'Amarah, and 12 at 'Umm Qasr 19 March; and 11 at Basra early 20 March.

Iraqi warplanes also carried out another 12 air strikes on Iranian cities between 0845 GMT 18 March and 1045 GMT 20 March, according to communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses. The targets included Tabriz, Bakhtaran, Dezful, Borujerd, Arak, and Qazvin. Another communique carried by the radio announced that a "very large number" of Iraqi planes bombed oil tankers in the holding area east of Khark Island 19 March, destroying their targets and setting them on fire. Shipping sources stated that two oil tankers were on fire in the wake of the Iraqi attack, the radio reported. Iranian gunboats subsequently attacked a Hong Kong-owned tanker off the UAE coast 20 March, AFP reported, noting that the "Atlantic Peace" was holed by rockets but was able to make its own way to Dubayy. An Iranian gunboat also attacked a Liberian tanker in the southern Gulf 21 March, INA disclosed. Iranian gunboats had earlier fired missiles at a third tanker in the southern Gulf on 18 March, AFP noted.

On the human cost of the latest bombardments, IRNA and Tehran radio reports stated that Iraqi air raids over the weekend killed 31 people and injured at least 82. Sixteen people were killed and more than 17 others injured in Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran 18 and 20 March. On the Iraqi side, casualties included 7 people killed and 28 wounded in the bombardment of Al-Mawsil on 18 March, as well as 3 dead and 6 wounded in Basra 20 March, according to INA. A communique carried by Voice of the Masses also noted that 8 people were wounded in one of the missile attacks on Baghdad. In further reportage on the fate of Iraqi Kurds injured in alleged Iraqi chemical attacks on Halabjah, IRNA reported that around 800 of the victims have been transferred to hospitals in Arak, while 350 have been hospitalized in Tehran. Foreign reporters, including a correspondent of London's THE TIMES, have witnessed the "ghastly" scene in Halabjah, where bodies of those killed in the chemical attacks are scattered all around, the agency said.

Reporting on Iraqi aircraft losses, IRNA stated that one Iraqi plane was downed 18 March in northeastern Iraq, and that three more were downed over the Gulf the following day. An Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses announced that two Iranian jets were shot down 18 March, though this was denied by an Iranian spokesman quoted by IRNA.

Related Comment—In a 19 March interview with Tehran television, Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani ridiculed Iraq's claim to have had no military forces in the Halabjah area, asserting that the world can see Iran took over 4,000 prisoners in its "Val-Fajr-10" offensive. Iran also captured some 700 armored vehicles, of which 200 are intact, as well as 80 artillery pieces, he said. Over 700 Iranian "counterrevolutionaries" were captured in Nowsud. The Majlis speaker reaffirmed that Iraq's missile strikes cannot have any effect on the course of the war, but he stressed that the Iranian people will "never forget" the Soviet Union's "impudence" in supplying Iraq with missiles. "This will definitely affect our future relations" with the USSR, he averred.

For Iraq's part, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz told Radio Monte Carlo that Iraq's missiles were made in Iraq and are "100 percent Iraqi." Saddam Husayn had earlier revealed in an interview with Egypt's AL-AHRAM that Iraqi military industries have increased the range of the Iraqi missiles to 850 km.

Israel

Territories—The IDF may "upgrade the strictness of its activities" in response to the murder of an Israeli soldier in Bethlehem 20 March, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin warned in remarks cited by Jerusalem television. The soldier was shot dead by an unknown assailant while guarding an Interior Ministry building, Jerusalem radio noted.

The IDF shot dead an Arab youth the same day in a village near Janin after the youth hurled a Molotov cocktail at soldiers, the radio reported, adding that a second youth was seriously wounded. The incident follows a new regulation ordering soldiers to fire at anyone throwing Molotov cocktails. Other recent IDF measures mentioned by the radio include the arrest of hundreds of "inciters and rioters," more widespread use of administrative detentions, the destruction of houses belonging to various Palestinian suspects, and the banning of "Al-Shabibah," the Palestinian youth movement. Al-Shabibah was accused of belonging to Fatah and of recruiting youths for terrorist purposes. On the use of administrative detentions, HA'ARETZ noted that IDF commanders have authorized a return to pre-1979 procedures whereby arrests are not submitted to judicial review. This will ease the heavy burden on military courts and prosecutors, the paper said, and the IDF plans to use the new decree to arrest "hundreds" of suspects. The IDF has also distributed leaflets in Tulkarm and Qalqilyah urging residents to return to normal life and warning them that it knows who is responsible for the disturbances, Jerusalem radio noted.

In earlier security incidents, Jerusalem radio reported that 2 Arabs were killed and 23 injured by IDF gunfire during riots in the West Bank and Gaza 18 March. An Arab youth also died in a hospital after being hit by IDF fire during a riot on 15 March.

Policy on U.S. Plan—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will seek to avert a clear-cut Israeli rejection of the U.S. peace plan, and will propose to the cabinet that it authorize "continued contacts" with the United States, THE JERUSALEM POST predicted in a 20 March report. However, a Labor Party minister told the POST that if the government rejects or avoids the Shultz initiative, Labor may decide to leave the National Unity government.

Warnings on Saudi Missiles—Asked by Jerusalem radio whether Israel might take action to remove Saudi Arabia's Chinese missiles if U.S. diplomatic efforts are unsuccessful, Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director of Shamir's office, stated that "this possibility always exists," and he noted that Israel has a reputation of "not waiting until a potential danger becomes real." Yitzhaq Moda'i, another Likud figure, told the radio that the Saudi missile purchase introduces a new nuclear threat into the region, as the Chinese missiles are so expensive that "it does not pay" to arm them with conventional explosives.

Meanwhile, a senior IDF officer cited by YEDI'OT AHARONOT disclosed that Israel is developing "effective, cheap, and multipurpose" methods of intercepting surface-to-surface missiles.

Saudi Arabia

A "responsible source" cited by SPA 19 March confirmed that Saudi Arabia has received "Chinese-manufactured medium-range surface-to-surface missiles," but "categorically" denied press reports that these missiles have a nuclear capability. The source linked the missile deal with the Kingdom's need to bolster its defense capabilities in light of the "unstable atmosphere" and ongoing conflicts in the region, adding that any plan to strengthen Saudi defenses will help stability, not undermine it.

Monitored PRC media have not thus far been observed to mention the sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia.

Mideast Diplomatic Developments

Talks in Moscow, Amman, Cairo—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i held talks in Moscow 19 March with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Amman radio reported. The two sides discussed the new U.S. peace plan, Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, and bilateral relations. According to TASS, Shevardnadze and Al-Rifa'i agreed on the usefulness of continuing "substantive talk" with the U.S. Administration but warned of the "danger and admissibility of partial separate understandings." They also agreed that the criterion for assessing peace initiatives should be the degree to which such initiatives contribute to a "just settlement" based on "a balance of interests of all parties involved in the conflict." As for the Afghan problem, Al-Rifa'i reportedly hailed Soviet efforts to promote the signing of agreements in Geneva. The Afghan issue was also the subject of a 19 March meeting in Amman between King Husayn and a visiting Soviet envoy, PETRA-JNA noted. Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan had earlier told Soviet academics visiting Amman that Jordan wants the USSR to have powers of "decision-making and arbitration" at an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the JORDAN TIMES reported.

In other diplomatic developments in Amman, King Husayn held separate meetings with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid and U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib 20 March, according to Amman television. Habib gave Husayn a letter from Secretary of State George Shultz on the U.S. peace proposals and on the outcome of U.S. contacts with the parties concerned, including the Soviet Union. In a related report on Habib's mission to Amman, Radio Monte Carlo cited

speculation by "diplomatic sources" that Jordan is playing a role in promoting a U.S.-Soviet "barter" deal whereby the Americans will help finalize the Geneva talks on Afghanistan in return for Soviet willingness to assist the Shultz plan.

Habib held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo earlier on 20 March, according to Cairo radio. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid stated that Mubarak's meeting with the U.S. envoy was "very fruitful," adding that Egypt believes the United States is making a "very serious effort" to promote the peace process, which must continue within the framework outlined by Habib. Mubarak had earlier received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who said afterward that he had briefed the Egyptian leader on the "serious escalation" in Israeli military measures against the inhabitants of the occupied territories, MENA noted.

ICO Conference—Delegates from ICO member-states held preliminary meetings in Amman over the weekend to draw up the agenda for the ICO foreign ministers conference, scheduled to start 21 March, Amman television reported. Radio Monte Carlo later disclosed that three topics head the agenda: the Gulf War, the uprising in the occupied territories, and the Afghan issue. Libya and Syria were unsuccessful in trying to omit the Afghan issue from the agenda, the radio said.

Libyan Tour—Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with President Chadli Bendjedid in Algiers and with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in Tunis 19 March, according to Tripoli radio and television reports. In remarks broadcast by Algiers radio after his talks with Bendjedid, Jallud stated that Bendjedid's position on Libyan-Algerian unity brings "good news" to the Arab nation and gives hope that Libya and Algeria are moving toward a "historic act that will have enormous effect." Libya supports Bendjedid's idea of developing Libyan-Algerian unity action into "four-sided" action to include Tunisia and Mauritania, he added.

Afghan Affairs

"Animosity" toward the Soviets will continue unless reparations are paid for the damage and losses "inflicted" on Afghanistan, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the alliance of seven resistance parties, declared 19 March in remarks cited by XINHUA. Terming "Soviet intervention" the main reason for the Afghan war, Hikmatyar called on Moscow to resolve the issue by holding direct talks with the mujahidin. He announced that the alliance will not send a delegation to Geneva until the Soviet side agrees to recognize the mujahidin as a party to a political settlement of the problem, and he reiterated the alliance's refusal to hold talks with the Kabul regime, the agency reported.

Ahmad Shah, head of a recently formed interim government, revealed that the composition of the resistance government will be announced "soon," XINHUA reported, noting Shah's assertion that the announcement will be made on "liberated Afghan territory." The resistance does not intend to form a government-in-exile, Ahmad Shah declared. In a related development, a resistance delegation seeking recognition of the interim government has been sent to Amman where the ICO foreign ministers are meeting, according to XINHUA. The agency recalled that the Afghan seat in the ICO was suspended in 1980.

Regarding the mujahidin's military plans, Hikmatyar warned that the rebels are planning to launch "extensive attacks on all major military installations in Kabul," and he advised the civilian population to evacuate those areas, AFP reported. Guerrilla sources told AFP 20 March that rebels recently "captured" the town of Panjvai, 20 km west of Qandahar, and that a Soviet-Afghan military post near Khowst was taken over following "heavy fighting" during which "dozens" of government soldiers were killed.

For the Soviets' part, Vladimir Petrovskiy, Soviet deputy foreign minister, told a Stockholm press conference 17 March that all Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan "within 10 months," and he hoped that the pullout can begin before the U.S.-Soviet summit planned for May, XINHUA reported.

In Kabul, the Pakistani charge d'affaires was summoned to receive a Foreign Ministry denial of charges that Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace over Mohmand Agency 23 February, Kabul radio reported 19 March, adding that such "unfounded accusations" lead to the "intensification" of the situation along the border. A police source in Islamabad revealed to AFP that a man thought to be a KHAD agent was arrested 17 March for planting a "powerful bomb" in a Rawalpindi bus station.

On the subject of Afghan domestic affairs, Kabul radio also broadcast a 19 March presidential decree establishing 6-15 April as the period for elections to a bicameral national assembly and outlining the formation of the election districts.

Syria-USSR

Defense Minister Mustafa Talas received Soviet General Vladimir Pikalov, chief of the chemical troops, Damascus television reported 19 March, adding that the two officials discussed ways to "reinforce cooperation" with the aim of improving the "combat potential" of the Syrian Armed Forces.

Egypt

The People's Assembly extended the emergency law through 31 May 1991, MENA reported 20 March. Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi declared that the extension is necessary to "safeguard democracy," and he stressed that the law will be "restricted by the constitution" and implemented "within the narrowest limits," Cairo radio added.

Libya and the Chadian Opposition

Five Chadian opposition factions signed an agreement in Tripoli 19 March that renewed confidence in Goukouni Oueddei as president of the GUNT, Tripoli television reported. The factions represented at the meeting were FAP, headed by Goukouni himself, the Democratic Revolutionary Council, the Chadian Revolutionary Movement, and two military groups. A statement issued at the end of the meeting expressed "sincere gratitude" to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people for their support, stressing the determination of the Chadian side to work for the recovery of "confidence and solidarity" between the Libyan and Chadian peoples. The television report made no reference to the other GUNT leadership established in 1986 under Acheikh ibn Oumar.

Sudan

Talks With Ethiopia—Algeria has agreed to host the talks to settle differences between Sudan and Ethiopia, SUNA reported 20 March, citing the newspaper AL-ADWA'.

Conflict in South—Government troops recently succeeded in reopening the road to Al-Nasir and entering that town in the Upper Nile Region, according to press reports cited by SUNA. During the operation, 516 rebels were killed while the government forces only suffered 28 casualties. The military also killed at least 53 rebels in fighting around Miyom and in the Nasir-Bentiu area last week, Omdurman radio reported. "Arab diplomatic sources" revealed to AL-USBU' that rebel representatives in London signed a "military deal" to receive 8-million-dollars-worth of weapons, including "jet fighters and tanks," SUNA reported 20 March. The paper noted that, as an expression of its support for rebel leader John Garang, the selling country refused to take any payment for the weapons.

Tunisia

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali issued a decree pardoning 2,044 convicts, Tunis radio reported 18 March, explaining that the beneficiaries' sentences were variously revoked or reduced. The president also ordered the nullification of all convictions under the "press law." In remarks carried by Tunis radio on the occasion of Independence Day, Ben Ali stressed that his government decided to pardon various groups as a demonstration of its desire to "consolidate democracy and spread justice."

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Summit To Happen 'Most Likely' in April

JN181904 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1825 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Arab League sources in Tunis today said that thus far 13 of the 21 Arab League member states have approved Algeria's call for an extraordinary Arab summit in support of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. This summit will most likely be held during the first half of next month.

Paper Says Arabs 'Unqualified' To Solve Crisis

LD210944 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 21 (KUNA)—A local daily Monday stressed that the Arab summit, currently being prepared for, will not be able to realise its designated goals, accusing Arabs of being "unqualified" to find an exit from crisis.

Daily "AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM" said, in a front-page editorial, that solutions to Arab causes will not come through summits, no matter how extraordinary they may be, noting that a successful gathering would be one that backs the Palestinian uprising militarily.

"We want the conference as part of a comprehensive Arab and Islamic drive which deals at formulating a balance related to a real stance which deals with the uprising and the Iraq-Iran war through strategic considerations, and away from barter deals, auctions and incomplete proposals," the paper noted.

It warned that the wars and crisis Arab face no longer be settled through emergency summits, where more serious actions are needed such as political confrontations with Israel and its allies.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official Urges 'Action' Against U.S.

LD211009 Kuwait KUNA in English 0823 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Kuwait, March 21 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official has hoped that Arab countries would reject the latest American Mideast peace plan and said the uprising in the occupied territories was now in the middle of its planned course.

Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council (parliament in exile) Salim al-Za'nun added that the PLO was looking forward to a common Arab stance opposed for a limited self-rule for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, which has already been rejected by the PLO, Syria and Israel—the three main players in any potential Middle East settlement.

Al-Za'nun also wanted Arab countries to take action against the United States because Washington had "stepped up its hostility to the Palestinian people" by ordering the closure of the PLO UN mission.

He suggested that "measures" must be taken against U.S. cultural centers and consulates in the Arab world but he did not specify what those measures should involve.

The Palestinian uprising, according to Al-Za'nun, had covered three of the six stages planned for it under an action program drawn up by the highest Palestinian bodies including the PLO Executive Committee and the parliament in exile. He would not elaborate.

Ending the Israeli occupation is the ultimate goal of the Palestinian political and military activities, said Al-Za'nun who is also representative of the Fatah Movement in the Arabian Gulf countries.

The Palestinian officials singled out Kuwait as the most vehement supporter of the intifadha (uprising), saying Kuwait contributed more financial assistance to the occupied territories that it was required to.

He, meanwhile, denied reports that Egypt or other Arab countries were pushing the PLO to form a government in exile, indicating that the government issue which was raised by the PLO itself in recent months had been shelved.

Asked on the PLO response to a recent statement by Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir in 1967 and would oppose an international peace conference, Al-Za'nun said said: "This is Israel's genuine and official standing. We have to deal with it from this perspective."

The Palestinian official was at pains to make clear that only Shamir, as premier, can and will indicate the Zionist state's policy on Middle East peace. "No hope should be pinned on what (Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on) Peres or (U.S. President Ronald) Reagan say because Peres is not ruling and Reagan acted in the latest year (of his term) only to rescue the Israeli entity from its dilemma and not, as some may think, for fair peace between Arabs and Jews."

DFLP's Hawatimah Calls for 'Confrontation'

JN201844 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 mar 88

[Text] The Palestinians are preparing to celebrate tomorrow the anniversary of the Al-Karamah battle between the Israeli Army and Jordanian and Palestinian forces in the Al-Karamah area on the east bank of the River Jordan in 1968.

On Land Day on 30 March, Palestinians will remember the bloody clashes that occurred in 1976 when Israeli forces killed six Palestinians during a demonstration in protest against Israeli expropriation of land belonging to Palestinians from the Galilee area.

On this occasion, DFLP leader Nayif Hawatimah has addressed a call to the masses of the occupied territory calling on them to turn the day of Al-Karamah into a day for national dignity [karamah], to burn the earth under the feet of the occupiers, and to turn the cities and villages of the occupied territory into arenas of confrontation.

In his statement, Hawatimah denounced Shultz' plan and said it is worse than UN Security Council Resolution No 242. He also said the Palestinian people's uprising will continue and will foil all the capitulationist U.S. and Israeli plans regardless of the U.S. Administration's escalation of hostility toward the Palestinian people.

Hawatimah called on the Arab states to counter the U.S. policy of hostility to the Palestinian people and rights by responding to the call of the uprising's Unified National Leadership for closing doors in the face of the U.S. Administration's envoys.

Committee Asks Municipal Council To Resign

JN191757 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1625 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Statement by the "popular committees of the uprising" in Qalqilyah, West Bank, to the people of Qalqilyah—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O masses of the struggling city of Qalqilyah, O grandchildren and brothers of Abu 'Ali Iyad who said: We die standing; we will not grovel.

We send you revolutionary Palestinian greetings. We salute your heroic steadfastness and your challenge to the attacks of the Zionist gangs. We salute your chaste blood, which watered the olive trees of Palestine. They want us to live in humiliation, but our people vowed that we will live in dignity. Therefore, the revolution began, and it is inevitable that this revolution will triumph and we will establish our independent Palestinian state.

Masses of our people, everybody knows there are a few Zionist agents who fell down and sold themselves cheaply. They chose to be puppets in the hands of the Zionist intelligence organs. They have carried out actions against our people and masses. This means they have aligned themselves with the enemy in an attempt to tarnish the national action and the achievements of our revolution and masses. However, we are certain you can distinguish between nationalist and treasonous actions. For example, a group of suspects and agents has set fire to a car belonging to a lawyer with the aim of creating sedition among the people.

As for the members of the municipal council, we tell them: You have assumed your posts by a decision from the military government. You must obey and carry out the decision of the uprising masses. You must immediately resign and vacate your seats, which you are not qualified to occupy. O enemies of the revolution and the people, the arm of the revolution, which is supported by the masses, is very long. This arm will inevitably reach you and carry out the people's sentence against you, as it was carried out in Qabatiyah. The rubbish heap of history will be very happy to receive you.

We pledge to be sincere to the aims of our revolution, realizing our masses' ambitions to liberate our homeland. Long live our people's powerful uprising. Glory and immortality to our martyrs. Shame and ignominy to agents and traitors. God is with us, victory is near. Together we march on the path of liberating the land and man.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Cordovez Sees Some Progress at Geneva Talks

BK181601 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the United Nations envoy on Afghanistan, has said that the Geneva proximity talks are moving forward and progress is being made on several issues. He told newsmen in Geneva today that the talks will continue on Monday after the weekend holidays.

He said we are trying to integrate all elements of the comprehensive peace agreement, including the questions regarding the preparation of the drafts of the four documents and some important outstanding issues.

Diego Cordovez held informal talks today. This morning, he met the Soviet ambassador at large, Nikolay Kozarov, at the Palace of Nations, and in the afternoon, he went to Pakistan's permanent mission and met with the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani.

In a dispatch from Geneva, Radio Pakistan's special correspondent, Safdar Ahad, said that during the talks, which lasted about an hour, informal discussions were held. The agenda for next week was also said to have been discussed at the talks. Diego Cordovez will meet with the Kabul regime's foreign minister later today.

Sources close to Diego Cordovez say that the current Geneva negotiations are complicated and are devoted to several vital and sensitive issues. The sources told newsmen in Geneva this afternoon that the two prospective guarantors have to play a vital role. They have been urged to hold mutual consultations on issues which have caused concern during current negotiations. These sources said that various issues are being considered jointly and not separately for a comprehensive agreement.

These sources also said that mutual understanding and discussions between the two guarantors are highly essential and vital. Answering another question, the sources said that the issue of the Durand Line was not raised during the negotiations.

Algeria

Messaadia on Maghreb Unity, Sahara Question

LD191712 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The possible adherence of other countries to the treaty of fraternity and concord [signed by Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania] has been commented on by Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the official responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee. Correspondent Kader Brahimi reports on an interview granted to the daily AL-AMAL, the central organ of the Tunisian Constitutional Democratic Rally:

[Brahimi] Mr Messaadia said the treaty cannot be selective. The geographical borders of the Maghreb are known; thus, all people who live there are Maghreb people. On Algerian-Moroccan relations, the official responsible for the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat said our relations with Morocco have not been interrupted and contacts exist. Neither of the two sides harbors resentment against the other. We will meet each other and talk with each other.

Mr Messaadia also said, however, that our position on the Saharan question is one of principle, clear-cut and clearly stated. We believe, Mr Messaadia concluded, that the construction of a Greater Arab Maghreb necessarily means respect for the wishes of the people of the region.

Messaadia Receives Hungarian Delegation

LD201402 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Today at the FLN Central Office, Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the FLN Central Committee, received a delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party (MSZMP), which is paying an official visit to Algeria. It is headed by Mr Geza Kotai, director of the International Relations Department of the MSZMP Central Committee.

The meeting provided an opportunity to assess relations between the two parties and to review the means of consolidating them through cooperation between the two countries. They recorded the importance of exchanging experience and direct contacts.

After exchanging views about a number of international issues of mutual interest and recording agreement on the analytic view, the Hungarian delegation insisted on recording the MSZMP Central Committee's praise of President Chadli Bendjedid's initiative for holding an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the issue of the popular uprising in occupied Palestine.

The meeting was attended by Mr Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Department, and the Hungarian ambassador to Algeria.

Energy Minister Meets With Libyan Envoy

LD151114 Tripoli JANA in English 0922 GMT 15 Mar 88

[Text] Algiers, Mirrikh [March] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in sisterly Algeria met yesterday Mr Belkacem Nabi, the Algerian minister of energy and petrochemical industries.

The two sides have discussed furthering the existing cooperation between the two countries in all spheres, apart from surveying the unionist projects that have been accomplished in the field of petrochemical industries besides the executive measures relating to the agreements approved that come within the unionist steps taken by the two sisterly countries.

Chad

Factions Sign Agreement To Unify Under Oueddei

LD192240 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The Chadian factions, signatories of the Lagos Agreement, concluded their meetings in Tripoli in the Great Jamahiriyah by signing an agreement which includes the following:

1. Unifying the Chadian factions under the leadership of President Goukouni Oueddei, president of the GUNT.

2. Achieving unity of the factions which signed the Lagos Agreement on political and military levels to continue the fight for the liberation of Chad and to establish a patriotic and democratic regime.

3. Renewing confidence in the person of President Goukouni Oueddei to preside over the Government of National Unity.

4. Calling for the convening of a general conference of the Chadian dynamic forces to create a widespread popular patriotic front.

The agreement was signed by the leaders of all the following factions:

1. President Goukouni Oueddei, commander of the FAP [People's Armed Forces] and president of the GUNT.

2. Al-Hadj Mahamat Abbat Seid, chairman of the Higher Council of the Forces of the First Army.

3. Flight Lieutenant Colonel Najita Bassoumi, commander of the Chadian Armed Forces, the Chadian Revolutionary Movement [as heard].

4. Rakhis Manani, secretary general of the Executive Bureau of the Democratic Revolutionary Council.

5. Aissa Moussa, commander of the Third Army of the Western Armed Forces.

The agreement and the statement issued by the meeting of the factions were read by Al-Hadj Mahamat Abba Seid, chairman of the Higher Council of the Forces of the First Army. They are as follows:

In accordance with our will and belief in consolidating relations between the Chadian revolution and the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, and our conviction in preserving and bolstering the historic brotherly relations between the Libyan Arab people and the Chadian people, we, the leaders of the factions and the fronts who signed the agreement in Tripoli this evening, renew our appreciation of the comprehensive help given by the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to the Chadian revolution.

We give our sincere gratitude to the Libyan Arab people and its extraordinary leader, the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for the support presented by the Great Jamahiriyah and the Libyan Arab people for the Chadian revolution and people in their struggle waged against imperialism, neocolonialism, and dictatorship.

Out of our awareness of the importance of the revolutionary consciousness and determination of brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to liberate our people and the peoples still suffering from repression and imperialist dominance, a dominance that keeps peoples from their right for liberation and their free choice toward development, we, the leaders of the signatory factions of this agreement, declare on the basis of these facts our determination to endeavor for the recovery of the confidence and solidarity in struggle between our two peoples.

Long live the Al-Fatih revolution, long live the Chadian revolution.

Libya Disregards Cease-fire, Violates Airspace

4 MiG's Overfly Ounianga

AB182044 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] The Libyan Air Force continues to violate our airspace. Four MiG-type warplanes overflew Ounianga at 0800 hours [0900 GMT] today. This gives yet another proof of the lack of respect by Al-Qadhdhafi for the cease-fire that Chad and Libya have been expected to observe at the request of the OAU since September last year.

Fada Overflown

AB201907 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] The Libyan Air Force has once again violated Chadian airspace by flying over the town of Fada yesterday at 0900 local time. This Libyan act of provocation comes only a few days before the meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee on the border dispute between Chad and Libya. Al-Qadhdhafi (?might as well say he won't attend that meeting) because he scorns the OAU recommendation that both parties to scrupulously observe the ceasefire, which will facilitate the task of the ad hoc committee to find a negotiated solution to the border dispute between Chad and Libya.

Lack of Arab-African Solidarity Criticized

AB181129 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] We open this broadcast with an analysis on Arab-African relations from the January 1988 issue of the magazine BULLLETIN D'AFRIQUE. [passage indistinct] The Arab countries have taken a stand against the interests of the Black Africans. The most flagrant case of this stand is demonstrated by their position in the face of the Chad-Libya conflict. This is a partisan stand, of course, which the magazine BULLETIN D'AFRIQUE has not lost sight of.

In an article entitled "The Arab Support for Libya Against Chad," BULLETIN D'AFRIQUE noted that the crisis between the two countries is one more example of Arab solidarity against African interests. While proclaiming its fidelity to the OAU, Libya has continued to flout the resolutions adopted by the body. It has refused to cooperate with the OAU's ad hoc committee, and has continued to bomb and to openly violate Chadian territory, despite the ceasefire imposed by the OAU in September 1987. The Arab League has taken a partial stand by giving Libya all its support, the magazine went on.

The Arab league's secretary general, Chedli Klibi, has publicly stated that the Aozou Strip belongs to Libya. But the Lebanese and the Palestinians have gone even further. According to Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Druze Party, they have sent more than 1,000 mercenaries to fight against Chad, in the name of the Arab community and Islam. The Palestinian participation is rather [words indistinct] our colleague wrote, because most African countries support the Palestinian cause.

According to Syria also, Arab solidarity comes well ahead of Arab-African solidarity, and that country has forced the Druze and Palestinian mercenaries to [words indistinct] en route to Libya. Furthermore, the magazine pointed out, 40 Syrian pilots were sent to Libya to support Al-Qadhdhafi in his fight against Chad. Sudan and Algeria, which claim to be mediators between Libya

and Chad, have joined the Arab side by supporting the Libyan claim to the Aozou Strip. The magazine also criticized these reactions in the face of what it called the Arab hypocrisy.

Thus, the magazine's commentator [words indistinct] reproaches the OAU for its lack of resolve and efficiency on the Chadian issue. If the OAU had been tough with Libya, the magazine went on, the matter would not have lasted so long. If it had, for example, decided to expel Libya from the organization, the (?madman) of Tripoli would have thought twice [words indistinct]. Yet it is not too late to make such a decision. Those who are concerned with the social, economic, (?and political) situation and the security of Chad should do something to [words indistinct].

Finally, BULLETIN D'AFRIQUE quotes an earlier editorial from the Ivorian daily FRATERNITE MATIN which says: The Arab countries, which have been calling for African-Arab solidarity in their long-standing conflict with Israel, have not returned this solidarity [words indistinct]

Chad, for its part, while expressing satisfaction with the good behavior of most Arab countries toward it, does not lose hope in seeing those Arab countries adopt a more realistic attitude in the face of this conflict. Our country, because of its geographic location, can constitute a good test for the relations between Africa south of the Sahara and the Arab world. It would be unfortunate if some countries [words indistinct].

Egypt

U.S. Envoy Habib Arrives for Talks 19 Mar

NC191040 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Philip Habib, an emissary of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, arrived in Cairo today. He will brief President Husni Mubarak on the recent developments concerning the U.S. initiative which was lately put forward by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and the response of the parties concerned to this initiative.

Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak, head of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department, met Habib at the airport.

Meets With 'Abd al-Majid

NC191429 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this afternoon received Philip Habib, U.S. President Ronald Reagan's envoy for the Middle East. U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner and a number of the U.S. envoy's aides also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, which lasted for about 1 hour, Habib stated that he had briefed Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on recent developments pertaining to the peace process.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed satisfaction at receiving Habib and added that President Husni Mubarak will receive him later.

The foreign minister noted that his meeting with the U.S. President's emissary was an opportunity to exchange views with American friends. He asserted that Egypt's policy is to encourage the United States to help promote the peace process, adding: All of us in this region look forward to peace. [passage omitted]

Discussions With Mubarak

NC200856 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0835 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Philip Habib, U.S. President Reagan's special envoy, and his accompanying delegation at the presidential offices this morning.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador in Cairo, attended the meeting.

Philip Habib arrived in Cairo yesterday on a Middle East tour which will also take him to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco. The tour is part of U.S. efforts to bring about peace in the region.

Calls Talks 'Very Fruitful'

NC201356 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Philip Habib, U.S. envoy to the Middle East, and the delegation accompanying him at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the U.S. envoy's meeting with President Mubarak was very fruitful, adding that Egypt's stand remained clear throughout the entire meeting. He said: We believe that the United States is making a very serious effort to promote peace, which is vital to all of us. We feel that this process must continue within the framework which Philip Habib has briefed me on, and which I believe is another encouraging step. We will continue to carry out contacts with our friends in the region. We wish Ambassador Habib success in his mission.

U.S. envoy Philip Habib left Cairo for Amman at noon today.

Abu Ghazalah Leaves for Washington 19 Mar

NC191412 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, left Cairo for Washington this afternoon. He will pay a working visit to the United States for about 10 days.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah and U.S. officials are due to discuss the U.S. military aid program to Egypt and military requirements for the Armed Forces. They will also examine the process for the production of the U.S. M1 Abrams tank, after the approval of this project by the U.S. Congress.

Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah's talks will also deal with the strengthening of Egyptian-U.S. relations, the situation in the Middle East, and the situation in the Gulf, particularly in light of recent developments in the Gulf war, after Iraq used long-range surface-to-surface missiles, and the escalation of this war of the cities.

Further Reportage on Visit by Yasir 'Arafat

Talks With 'Abd al-Majid

NC181803 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met tonight with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Egypt.

Developments in the Palestinian issue were discussed in light of efforts to give an impetus to the peace process.

Meets With Mubarak, Comments

NC181905 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this evening. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In a statement after the meeting, 'Arafat said he had briefed President Mubarak on the current situation in the occupied Arab territories, and particularly on the serious escalation in the Israeli army's actions against the inhabitants of these territories. He added that the discussion also touched on various developments in Arab issues.

Continuing his statement to MENA, 'Arafat said he had conveyed to President Mubarak the Palestinian people's thanks to the Egyptian people, president, and government for supporting the Palestinian people in their just struggle.

Asked to assess the efforts exerted by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, 'Arafat said he has not received anything from Shultz and, therefore, it is difficult for him to express his opinion.

Departure Reported 19 Mar

NC191922 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo this evening after a 2-day visit during which he attended the funeral of his brother, Mustafa 'Arafat. He was seen off at the airport by Isma'il Mubarak, director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Further Reportage on UAE President's Visit

Tour of North Sinai Noted

NC181935 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan returned to Cairo at 1530 this afternoon, concluding a tour of Sharm al-Shaykh, Al-'Arish, and Ismailia that they conducted yesterday and today. While in these areas, the two leaders were accorded a massive popular reception.

President Mubarak and Shaykh Sayid visited Al-'Arish city, in the North Sinai Governorate today. They were received upon their arrival at the Oberoi Hotel by North Sinai Governor Munir Shash, Minister of Awqaf Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, People's Assembly members, executive and popular key figures in the governorate, and chiefs of some tribes. The two leaders were briefed on the tourist sites in the area and they later performed the Friday prayers at the Al-'Arish city mosque.

Al-Sharif Comments

NC190949 Cairo MENA in English 0833 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 19 (MENA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who is due to leave later today at the end of a seven-day state visit, was given an official send off this morning at the Al-Qubbah Republican Palace.

Shaykh Zayid shook hands with his well-wishers including People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Shura Council Dr. 'Ali Lutfi, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

Later, President Husni Mubarak and the UAE leader watched a surface-to-air missile firing demonstration.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information Safwat al-Sharif said that Shaykh Zayid's visit had several positive results on political, economic and bilateral relations levels.

He also described the visit as an impetus to Arab solidarity pointing out that a number of agreements governing commercial, economic and labour domains were signed during the visit. A delegation representing the Abu Dhabi Development Fund is due here next week, as directed by Shaykh Zayid to assess a number of agricultural projects so as to consider the possibility of financing them, the minister said.

Departure Reported 19 Mar

NC191016 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan left Cairo at midday today, following a week-long visit to Egypt.

FRG To Write Off 'Substantial Portion' of Debts

NC191141 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that the FRG Government will soon write off a substantial portion of Egypt's debts to it. This measure will inject more vitality into the Egyptian economy.

An official Egyptian economic source said that the FRG Government will apply this measure to Egypt and several other developing countries, in order to alleviate the burden of foreign debts on these countries.

Egypt has concluded talks on the rescheduling of debts with the FRG, the United States, France, and Italy. The FRG Government was particularly flexible during its talks with Egypt, which lasted less than 2 weeks.

It is worth mentioning that the Netherlands decided earlier to write off some of its loans to Egypt.

AL-AHRAM Comments on PLO Office Closure

[16 Mar]
JN181634 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Mar 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Step Backward"]

[Text] The U.S. decision to close the PLO office in New York came at the worst time, considering the U.S. efforts currently being exerted to reach a solution—or the beginnings of a solution—or to identify the direction toward a solution for the Palestine question. The form and general content of the decision is a blow to the ongoing peace moves, in which several parties, not only the United States, are participating. Indeed, this decision is a frivolous step backward.

True, this decision is relatively old, as it was made by Congress some time ago. However, the complications surrounding the reactions of the U.S. agencies responsible for implementing the decision were dubious. The [U.S.] Administration displayed something that can be likened to dissatisfaction over this decision, or this is at least the reaction that was voiced. We got the impression that the administration would seek to postpone implementation of the decision. Then, the whole issue was referred to the attorney general, and pressure lobbies seeking to accelerate the implementation of the decision emerged.

It looked as if the U.S. authorities were considering the consequences and weighing their steps to decide whether to go ahead with the move or to halt it. Then, something resembling skirmishes and the process of probing intentions took place between the administration and the United Nations, which objected to the closure and brandished the provisions of the Headquarters Agreement signed with Washington. When this proved to be to no avail, the United Nations announced that it was seeking arbitration at the International Court of Justice. However, the administration hastened to implement the decision as of 21 March, citing the mechanisms of the pertinent legislation.

What causes doubts and resentment toward this move is seeing it consummated in this manner, at the time of the Shamir visit to Washington—a scheduled visit, the date of which was known in advance. The doubts and resentment are also caused by seeing these mechanisms or government measures dictate that the implementation of the decision coincides with the revolutionary Palestinian uprising, which has entered its 4th month; with the existence of "a peak" in current peace efforts; with the sharp "turning point" through which the very proposals submitted by Shultz are going; and also with the emergence, on the surface at least, of U.S.-Israeli differences that seem to have formed "a knot" in the smooth relations binding Washington to Tel Aviv.

To see all this consummated under such circumstances gives rise to doubts and resentment and gives one the impression that the United States prefers to exert its pressures, at least politically, on the weaker parties in its explicit and implicit bargains, and always to placate Israel.

By implementing this decision at this time, Washington is sacrificing many things: its international reputation regarding its agreement with the United Nations, its relatively improving relations with the Arab world, and its image as "a just" partner in the peace process—a partner who was desired, under these critical circumstnaces, to be above suspicion.

Briefs

Electricity Loan Approved

The African Development Bank has approved $560 million in easy loans to finance pressing Egyptian electricity projects. This was reported by Energy and Electricity Minister Mahir Abaza following talks with Dr Babacar N'Diaye [name as published], president of the bank's board of directors, now visiting Cairo. [Summary] [*JN181507 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Mar 88 JN*]

Libya

Further on Visit by Sudan's Al-Mirghani

Views Arab, African Issues

JN191119 Khartoum SUNA in English 0940 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, March 19 (SUNA)—Chairman of the Council of State Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani has said Sudan is working for finding an end to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

Al-Mirghani, who is here on an official visit, told Arab ambassadors accredited to Libya Thursday that his talks with the Libyan official covered relations between Sudan and Libya as well as the current Palestinian uprising in the occupied lands.

Stressing the necessity of Arab solidarity, Al-Mirghani confirmed that Sudan was working for purifying atmosphere between Arab countries.

Al-Mirghani same day met with African ambassadors here and briefed them on the objective of his current visit to Libya as well as on the Sudan's foreign policy which is based on good neighbourliness, the consolidation of Afro-Arab solidarity, and the development of Sudan's relations with African countries.

Benin's ambassador to Libya the dean of African ambassadors to here welcomed Al-Mirghani and appreciated Sudan's democratic experiment, saying that he was following current efforts by Sudan to solve African problems.

Meanwhile Al-Mirghani, same day, met with Sudanese community here telling them that they had inherited a heavy burden from defunct regime and that they were striving for the rehabilitation of all government utilities with a view to alleviate the citizens burden of living.

He briefed them on the efforts exerted by the Armed Forces for repulsing the rebel troops and retake Kurmuk and Qaysan towns in eastern Sudan as well as preparations to recapture Kapoeta, in eastern Equatoria Region.

On the outcome of his visit, he said they agreed on opening new channels of cooperation in all fields.

In the meantime, the chairman of the Council of State received here on the same day representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (P.L.O.) here Muhammad 'Izzat and confirmed to him Sudan's full support to the current uprising by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. [words indistinct]

During these visits, Al-Mirghani was accompanied by Libyan Armed Forces Commander in Cheif Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir.

Visits University in Banghazi

LD201843 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Al Bayan al Awal, Mirrikh [March] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ahmad al-Mirghani, the president of the Sudanese State Council, visited this afternoon in the company of Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, the commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the Arabs Medical University in the city of Al Bayan al Awal—Banghazi.

The president of the Sudanese Council and the delegation in his company toured various sections of the university and [were] briefed by the secretary and members of the People's Committee of the university on the progress of work and achievements realised and reflected by this colossal scientific fortress.

Al-Mirghani entered in the visitors book a statement showing his admiration of the fortress and wished it all success.

He also toured the section of painting and arts where he was given a symbolic present and met and shook hands with the Sudanese students at this unviersity.

Soviet Navy Commander Comments Before Departure

LD191238 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Mar (JANA)—Fleet Admiral Vladimir Nikolayevich Chernavin, commander in chief of the Soviet Navy, along with the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli today after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Prior to leaving Tripoli International Airport, the fleet admiral made a statement to JANA expressing his satisfaction with his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The result of the visit, he said, will contribute to the deepening of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Mauritania

'Minor' Cabinet Reshuffling Announced

AB201632 Paris AFP in French 1606 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Nouakchott, 20 Mar (AFP)—A minor cabinet reshuffling, the key aspects of which are the dropping of two ministers and the creation of a new ministry, was announced in Nouakchott today.

According to a communique from the presidency of the Republic, the minister of rural development, Mr Messaoud Ould Belkair, is leaving the cabinet and has been replaced by Mr Hamoud Ould Ely, the previous minister of equipment.

Lieutenant Colonel Oumar Dieng Harouna [spelling of name as received] has joined the cabinet and is responsible for the portfolio of equipment. At the same time, Mr Mohammed Ould Haimer [spelling of name as received] becomes the minister of civil service, labor, youth, and sports, thus replacing Captain El Hadj Abderrahmane Dia, who has been dropped from the cabinet.

Lastly, the state control administration has been upgraded to ministerial level and the portfolio for it has been assigned to Mr Ethman Sid'Ahmed Yessa [spelling of name as received].

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Denies Foreign Troops in Darfur

JN211117 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 21 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has once again denied the presence of any foreign troops in Darfur western Sudan.

Speaking at a press conference held Sunday, Al-Mahdi described a recent armed clash in Tebel Marra [name as received] area in Darfur as a tribal dispute between settled and nomadic tribes.

He said 11 people were killed and 307 huts and 484 sacks of sorghum were destroyed in the conflict.

Al-Mahdi said the Army has strict orders to deal firmly with any foreign troops that could be found within Sudanese territories.

The prime minister has called on international and local pressmen to visit the region and to see the situation for themselves.

He said he had instructed the Sudanese embassies to issue entry visas for any interested journalist to visit Sudan for the purpose.

Al-Mahdi pointed out that the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian ministerial committee would hold its first meeting this week in Djibouti on the sidelines of the summit conference of the inter-governmental authority for combating drought and destrification in east and central Africa (AGAAD) which is scheduled to convene on March 20-23.

He said the long delayed meeting comes as a result of mediations played by some sisterly and friendly countries he did not name.

Al-Mahdi indicated that a non-governmental Sudanese delegation had left here for Harare Zimbabawe to participate in the gathering organized by the International Interaction Council to discuss the question of the southern Sudan and ways for reaching peace.

The prime minister reaffirmed that Sudan will not accept any more refugees and has prepared a proposal to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for distinguishing between a political refugee and another driven by hunger out of his country.

Ethiopia Consents to Attend Joint Mediation

JN191018 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March, 19 (SUNA)—Sudan and Ethiopia have consented the mediation carried out by Djibouti's President Hassan Gouled and they will [meet] in the sideline of intergovernmental authority for combating drought and desertification in East Africa conference, the daily AL-WATAN reported.

The daily Arabic, [as received] in its first issue reported today, Premier Sadiq al-Mahdi who will attend the conference will meet Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam.

A Sudanese delegation headed by Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah is due to leave for Djibouti tomorrow—Sunday, the paper said adding that Al-Mahdi will leave for Djibouti and preside over Sudan's delegation.

The conference, in which Djibouti, Sudan, Uganda, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya will take part is due to start sessions next Monday.

Algeria To Host Talks

JN201732 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar. 20, (SUNA)—It has been initially agreed that Algeria is to host the first of the Sudanese-Ethiopian talks aimed to settle differences between the two countries, a weekly daily [as received] reported.

AL-ADWA' said contacts have been carried via several mediators for convening the Sudanese Ethiopian joint ministerial committee between the two sides.

It is understood that differences between the two countries over each other's role in hosting rebels on each side have several times postponed the convening of the ministerial committee between Khartoum and Addis Ababa.

Paper Reports Al-Ummah-DUP Differences

Al-Mahdi-Delegation Rejected

JN181309 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 28 (SUNA)—The Democratic Unionist Party "DUP" which is forming the current coalition government with the Al-Ummah Party of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has decided to reject granting Al-Mahdi a delegation for implementing the programme delivered before the Constituent Assembly parliament last Tuesday the daily "AL-AYYAM" issued here today reported.

Quoting a DUP source the paper said the party's parliamentary group and the Politburo have decided the rejection in a meeting held here last Tuesday.

The DUP called for removing the dispute with his partner "the Al-Ummah" and the participation of other political parties, the daily said.

It is to be recalled that Al-Mahdi had called the parliament for granting a complete delegation to form a new government because of the failure of this current government in solving the acute political problems among them the southern question and the economy as well as the foreign policies.

Earlier Agreements Abolished

JN191945 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 19 (SUNA)—Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi of the Al-Ummah party and notes of understanding signed with coalition partner the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the newly established Arabic daily AL-WATAN reported in its first issue published here Saturday. [sentence as received]

The paper further uncovered that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had dispatched a letter to Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani of the DUP informing him on the abolition of all agreements concluded between them earlier before the address made by Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in the Constituent Assembly, parliament, last week on his new policy programmed. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has justified abolition of the agreements and notes of understanding signed with the (DUP) members and other government officials towards the late controversial procession staged here last week by Darfurians mainly to protest the state of insecurity now prevailing in Darfur region, western Sudan, the paper said.

The Democratic Unionists were divided between supporting and opposing the process, thus putting the government in a critical position though the government had clearly banned the said procession, the paper added.

It further said that there is no written agreement between the two coalition parties now and that negotiations for formation of the third democratic government were being presently conducted on new bases among all the political parties in the country.

The paper also said the Al-Ummah Party will resort to opposition benches if its new proposed policy programme is rejected by the parliament.

Al-Nasri 'Ready To Quit' To Solve Crisis

JN181201 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 18, (SUNA)—Member of the Council of the State Mirghani al-Nasri said that he was ready to quit his post for solving any political crisis emerging between the co-ruling parties. Al-Nasri, in a press statement here yesterday, said he accepted the council's membership for avoiding any constitutional crisis and he was ready to quit post for the same reason. He voiced his rejection to any attempt aimed at amending the constitutional [as received] to reduce the number of the council's members for any reasons saying that he would resign immediately if any such attempt took place.

Southern Parties Urge Charter's Implementation

JN191908 Khartoum SUNA in English 1735 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 19 (SUNA)—The southern Sudanese parties called on the government of Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to implement the Sudan Transitional Charter and to appoint the chairman of the Council for the South Sudan before the discussion of [the] statement which was delivered by Al-Mahdi in the Constituent Assembly last week. The southern Sudan's parties held here Saturday a meeting under chairmanship of Alyaba James Surur and discussed the statement to make recommendations on all issues which have been reported in the statement.

Surur said the parties had agreed on the alternative laws which was [as received] prepared by the national reconciliation committee and to delay the discussion of [word indistinct] the sharia laws (hodood) in the constitutional conference.

The southern parties also called on necessity of continuation of regional government system in Sudan particularly in the south Sudan, Surur pointed out, adding that they also called on continuation of dialogue with SPLM of John Garang to reach peaceful settlement for south Sudan question.

The southerner leader indicated that the meeting has assigned a committee under chairmanship of Andew Mako [name as received] to conduct contacts with the northern Sudanese parties to discuss the current political situations in country.

The meeting was attended by all the southern Sudan's parties and a number of southern figures among them the member of the Sudanese Council of State Dr. Pacifico Lado Lolik.

Proposal for Arab Summit on 'Uprising' Accepted
JN191457 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Mar (SUNA)—Sudan has agreed to Algeria's proposal to hold an emergency Arab summit to discuss developments in the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories, ways to support it, and the political issues resulting from it.

This summit is expected to be held in the 1st half of April. It will take place either in Saudi Arabia, where the convocation session had been scheduled, or in Tunisia, which is host to the Arab League's headquarters. There is a feeling among the Arab states that this emergency conference should be held in Tunisia, because Saudi Arabia is already planning to host an ordinary Arab summit conference.

It is noteworthy that Sudan agreed to the Algerian proposal during Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's visit to Algeria 7 March.

Ministers Decide on Refugee Issuse Initiatives
JN191947 Khartoum SUNA in English 1750 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 19 (SUNA)—A meeting presided over by Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi today decided that Sudan will present two initiatives on the influx of refugees into Sudan from neighbouring countries and the transference of relief supplies to the areas affected by the riots in some Sudanese regions. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah, Social Welfare Minister Rashidah Ibrahim 'Abd al-Karim, State Minister for Defence Fadlallah Burmah Nasir, Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation Kamil Shawqi, and Commissioner for Refugees Hasan 'Atiyah. The two initiatives will be submitted to the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Society of the Red Cross.

Egypt Sends First Consignment of Military Aid
JN181253 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1022 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Mar (SUNA)—Today's issue of the newspaper AL-AYYAM said the Armed Forces General Command (?received) a number of personnel carriers and quantities of ammunition, light weapons, and spare parts from the Arab Republic of Egypt as the first consignment of military aid. The Egyptian Government has agreed to extend military aid to Sudan within the framework of the brotherhood charter between the two countries.

AL-AYYAM adds that Egypt has also provided a number of training opportunities to the Armed Forces personnel in various corps at several military institutes and training camps of the Egyptian Armed Forces. The paper says the coming days will witness an exchange of visits by military delegations from the two countries. This will allow for the greatest benefit from the military aid Egypt has promised to extend to Sudan.

AL-AYYAM adds that this aid is part of the comprehensive plan that was worked out to provide equipment to the Sudanese Armed Forces, to rehabilitate them, and to raise their efficiency by supplying them with the necessary equipment for movement in the vast, rugged areas. This is also to be accomplished by diversifying the combat tactics in various Armed Forces units so as to confront every form of threat to the country's security and stability.

AL-AYYAM says the Egyptian Government agreed to sell quantities of heavy weapons to Sudan, apart from those mentioned in the brotehrhod charter, at prices agreed upon in the world markets. The paper adds that its source explained that the Armed Forces Command recently managed to find numerous alternatives, diversify sources of weapons, and provide opportunities for military training, which were of great help to proceed with the plan to rehabilitate the Armed Forces.

Armed Forces Enter Al-Nasir, Defeat 'Outlaws'
JN181545 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Mar (SUNA)—The Sudanese forces in the Upper Nile region managed to reopen the road leading to the city of Al-Nasir and enter the city after violent battles this week with the outlaws around the city. The Sudanese Armed Forces entered the city last Sunday after a battle in which 80 outlaws were killed, according to the Friday edition of the newspaper AL-JARIDAH.

The newspaper AL-USBU' issued here today, said in a report on the operation that the outlaw forces stationed themselves around the city of Al-Nasir in an attempt to cut off the road as a prelude to occupying the city. The newspaper said that the Armed Forces clashed with the outlaws in several battles while on their way to the city of Al-Nasir. The Armed Forces killed 516 outlaws, lost 5 martyrs, and had 23 wounded.

In another development, the newspaper AL-JARIDAH said that the Armed Forces have taken control of all positions in the other operations areas. They are now

striking at the outlaws' concentrations and besieging their positions and concentrations, which are plundering citizens in the remote villages in the region.

The paper said that Sudanese Armed Forces' units, in cooperation with the friendly Anya Nya II forces, restored 500 cows on 13 March. These cows had been stolen by the outlaws in the area adjacent to [word indistinct] after a clash involving 500 outlaws.

The paper added that the friendly forces have resoundingly defeated the outlaws during this clash, killing 30 of them and wounding a large number; they also captured 9 Kalashinkovs, a machinegun, and a large quantity of ammunition. The friendly forces lost two martyrs and seven (?wounded).

In the Bathana [name as received] area, east of Bentiu, the Armed Forces attacked an outlaw camp on 14 March. They destroyed the camp and killed 23 outlaws, while the rest of the outlaws fled. The Armed Forces captured a large number of the wounded, a large quantity of ammunition, and mortars. Seven of the Armed Forces' personnel were wounded in this operation, including a first lieutenant.

Armed Forces Kill 53 Rebels, Recover Cattle

EA191454 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Our Armed Forces continue to impose their control in various places and operations throughtout the southern regions . They are also striking at locations where rebels are grouped and besieging their positions.

On 13 March units of our Armed Forces, in cooperation with friendly forces, responding to information on the plundering of citizens' cattle by the rebel forces, went into action in the area around Miyom. There they clashed with a gorup of rebels, [words indistinct] estimated to have numbered (?500).

Our forces and the friendly forces managed to inflict a crushing defeat on the rebels, during which 30 rebels were killed and large number was wounded. Our forces captured nine Klashnikov rifles, a machinegun, and large quantities of ammunition. Our forces also recovered 1,500 head of cattle which the rebels had plundered from the citizens of the area. The friendly forces suffered two martyrs and seven wounded in this operation.

As for the Jokau-Nasir-Bentiu area, our forces attacked a rebel camp on 14 March and managed to destroy it completely. Following the attack, the remaining rebels fled, leaving behind 23 killed, while they carried with them a large number of wounded. Our forces captured huge quantities of ammunition and mortars in this operation. Seven members of our Armed Forces, among them an officer with the rank of 1st lieutenant, were wounded in the operation.

Rebels Reportedly Conclude Military Arms Deal

JN201250 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar. 20, (SUNA)—The daily AL-USBU' today quoted Arab diplomatic sources as saying their states' governments have received evident proofs confirming that the rebels in southern Sudan last week signed a military deal with a state the sources did not name at the cost of 8 million dollar.

The deal consists of jet fighters, tanks, and other military equipment and the selling country refused to take the price in support to the forces of Colonel Garang the paper said.

The sources confirmed that former Foreign Minister Mansur Khalid and the rebels' representative in London John Luka have signed the deal on behalf of the rebels movement.

Garang Scheduled To Meet 'Popular Delegation'

JN191141 Khartoum SUNA in English 0952 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March, 19 (SUNA)—Former Nigerian President Obasanjo has succeeded in convincing leader of Sudan People's Liberation Organization "SPLM" Col. John Garang to meet the Sudanese popular delegation taking part in interaction conference scheduled to be held in Harare tomorrow—Sunday—the daily AL-SIYASAH issued here today reported.

The paper said Col. Garang accompanied by Dr. Mansur Khalid, a Sudanese politican will leave for Harare today while the Sudanese popular delegation comprising representatives to the Al-Ummah party, Democratic Unionist, the Sudanese Communist Party, the Islamic National front and former president of the South Council Mathieu Bobr, [name as received] had left for Harare the same day.

Quoting representative of Al-Ummah Party Dr. Hamid Bagadi [name as received], the daily said the question of the south will loom high in the agenda of the interaction conference.

Obasanjo will present a paper on the outcome of his mediation to end the bloodshed in the south while Sudan's delegation will present a paper on the southern Sudan question along with two working papers on the racial segregation in South Africa and economic development in Africa. The interaction conference will be attended by 30 former presidents from all over the world among them Obasanjo and Nyerere of Tanzania.

The Sudanese delegation will conduct talks with participants in the conference on the development of political situation.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Speedboats Attack Japanese, Norwegian Tankers

NC180929 Paris AFP in English 0904 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Manama, March 18 (AFP)—Speedboats attacked two tankers, one Japanese-chartered and one Norwegian, killing one crew member and injuring nine, independent shipping sources said Friday.

A Japanese cargo supervisor was killed and nine of the remaining 19 South Korean crew were injured in the first attack by missile-firing speedboats late Thursday on the Panama-registered "Maria-2" liquefied gas tanker off Dubayy, but no one was hurt in the second attack early Friday on the 284,000-tonne "Berge Lord" in the Strait of Hormuz.

A fire broke out aboard the "Berge Lord" in the attack, which was the work of an Iranian speedboat, the sources said, but was rapidly extinguished by the crew. The tanker sustained minor damage and continued its journey to Dubayy unassisted. [passage indistinct]

Kyowa [Marine Transportation Co.] said he died in hospital [words indistinct] adding that the vessel was en route to Singapore and Bangkok from the Saudi Arabian port of Al-Jubayl when it was attacked.

In London, Lloyd's Insurance officials had said that the entire 20-man crew of the Japanese ship were missing after missile-firing speedboats set the vessel ablaze.

Lloyds said the engine-room and living quarters of the vessel had burst into flames when gas containers were hit. Two tugs later put out the fire.

Shipping sources would not identify the speedboats that attacked the "Maria-2," but the attack was said to resemble previous ones launched by Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

Saudi Arabia

'Statement' on Purchase of Chinese-Made Missiles

LD191445 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1350 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Mar (SPA)—In reply to reports recently published by some papers on the purchase of Chinese-made missiles by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a responsible source made the following statement to SPA:

There is nothing new or strange in that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should secure its arms needs for its Armed Forces from various sources. This is in line with its defensive needs and with the circumstances dictated by the current situation in the region.

This stems from its policy aimed at consolidating its personal capabilities for the legitimate defense of its soil and sanctities, particularly in the shadow of the unstable atmosphere and the existing conflicts in the Middle East region.

The source added: Any world state has a legitimate right to take the measures deemed necessary to defend itself. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a duty and responsibility to shoulder: it is to ensure security and to safeguard the most sacred area in the world—which is the two holy mosques—which enjoy esteem and sanctity throughout the Islamic world.

The source said: On the other hand, the policy of the Kingdom has never been to harbor any hostile tendency. On the contrary, the Kingdom's policy has stemmed and still stems from its desire that peace and stability prevail throughout the world.

Consequently, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not believe that any plan which aims to bolster its defensive capabilities and safeguard its legitimate interests is likely to threaten peace. The opposite of this is correct in that whenever defensive capabilities increase it is likely this may help bring about stability to the region.

The source concluded the statement, saying: In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has in fact received Chinese-manufactured medium-range surface-to-surface missiles.

Nevertheless, reports published in some newspapers which stated that these missiles have a nuclear capability are not compatible with the truth and the Kingdom denies them categorically.

The Kingdom's firm and known policy is embodied in its continued endeavor to spare the Middle East region from the dangers of the nuclear arms race so the region may be a nuclear-free zone.

'Aziz Interviewed on UK Talks, War, Syria

PM181551 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Zaki Musa in London 16 March]

[Text] [Musa] What was the nature of the talks you held, independent of the Arab League delegation's talks, with British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe?

['Aziz] I am currently in London mainly as a member of the Arab League delegation entrusted with following up affairs of the Palestinian uprising and the Palestinian cause. I held a peripheral meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe and we discussed Iraqi-British bilateral relations with special emphasis on the current deliberations in the Security Council regarding implementation of Resolution 598. I explained the Iraqi position to the British secretary, stressing the known fact that since the day it was passed Iraq has welcomed the resolution and expressed its readiness to implement it in good faith. The Iranian regime, however, has rejected the resolution and for months resorted to maneuvers, trickery, and lies.

I do not deny that in my talks with the British secretary I voiced Iraq's strong resentment of attempts at the Security Council to entertain these Iranian methods and delay the sanctions which the Council should take against Iran for not abiding by the Security Council's resolution. The resolution is now 8 months old, but the Council has not shown enough determination to honor its commitment to Resolution 598, which calls for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. The Council should take the necessary measures to ensure adherence to the resolution. Iran has so far not adhered to it and the Council has so far not taken the necessary measures. That was the focal point of my talks with Secretary Howe in London.

[Musa] How do you assess the Soviet call for a Security Council meeting to be devoted to discussion of the "war of the cities" and what is your general view of the Soviet position on the war?

['Aziz] The facts prove—and I have emphasized this during my talks this morning (yesterday morning)—that it was Iran which started the war of the cities when it fired missiles at Baghdad on 28 February, and directed a barrage of artillery fire at border cities, especially Basra, Iraq's second most important city. After demonstrating patience and wisdom for several months, during which Iran fired its missiles at our capital and pounded our cities with artillery and other weapons, we had to retaliate to protect our people and prevent Iran from shelling them. Last week's proposal urging concentration on the war of the cities issue is wrong and incompatible with the course of promoting a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. We expressed our opinion at the time, during the talks held by our permanent representative in New York with the various delegations. Serious responsible efforts should be focused on full implementation of the resolution and on imposing sanctions against the side which does not abide by the resolution, namely Iran.

[Musa] What does the position adopted by China on implementing the second phase of the resolution mean to you?

['Aziz] I do not want to discuss the attitudes of individual states because they speak for themselves. Deliberations are still going on at the Security Council but, generally speaking, I say that none of the Council members has sufficiently honored its commitments under the UN Charter.

[Musa] How long will the missiles war or the war of the cities, as some like to call it, last? Is it ever going to end?

['Aziz] On 10 March we declared that Iraq is willing to stop the missiles war if Iran abides by five principles which we announced. These principles are just and in harmony with international law. However, Iran violated a main principle of these five when it continued to shell purely residential centers. It shelled Iraqi border towns and villages. We regard that as shelling of cities. Shelling of cities does not mean just shelling of capitals or important cities. If any town is shelled, that is considered a shelling of cities and of residential areas.

The shelling of Halabjah with heavy artillery claimed 13 martyrs and 79 were wounded, and in Darbadlikhan 8 martyrs fell and 9 were wounded, and many of these were women and children. This is the shelling of cities and residential areas and is a violation of one of the main principles we declared—principles recognized by the international community and international law.

[Musa] Some British reports speak of Iranian manufacture of chemical weapons. What precautions has Iraq taken against the use of chemical weapons in the war?

['Aziz] The Iranians used chemical weapons in the past, albeit on a limited scale, and they are expected to use chemical weapons in their aggressions against Iraq. We are prepared for such a possibility. Any aggression will be met with a strong and adequate reply on our part.

[Musa] Inter-Arab differences, and particularly Syrian-Iraqi differences, are still one of the main obstacles preventing unification of Arab stands. What has impeded the Iraqi-Syrian understanding which began to emerge during the Amman emergency summit conference?

['Aziz] In Amman the Arab leaders agreed to take a clear stand on the question of the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Gulf states. That stand was reflected in the summit resolutions. There was a Syrian delegation at the summit conference. It did not object to the resolutions and confirmed it would contribute to them. At the meeting held by eight Arab leaders, including Presidents

Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad, the latter promised to abide by the conference resolutions and pledged that Syria would subsequently act in harmony with the course charted by the Amman summit conference. It is therefore our duty to tell Arab public opinion that Syria has not honored the pledge it made at the Amman summit.

[Musa] Are efforts to reconcile the two sides continuing?

[*Aziz] No, there are no efforts at present. It is now up to Syria itself. If Damascus is willing to abide by the Amman summit resolution, it can do so without having to be asked by anyone. There are summit resolutions and Syria, as an Arab League member, is supposed to abide by these resolutions.

Information Minister on Iranian 'Aggression'

JN181738 Baghdad INA in English 1550 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 18, INA—Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that the Iranian aggression on Iraq is doomed to defeat whatever various the formulae and alliances of the aggressors were.

In a speech at the 8th electoral conference of the Iraqi Journalists Union he said that the glorious future will be for Iraq. Mr. Jasim appreciated the efforts of the Iraqi pressmen and their role in the battle fought by Iraq against the Iranian aggression.

He said that creativity of the journalists is a real reflection of the society activity and the victories of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

The minister called for more development in styles to develop the journalists work.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Mosul Damage Reported

JN181705 Baghdad INA in English 1612 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Mosul, northern Iraq, March 18, INA—A six-month infant today met martyrdom under the debris in the Iraqi city of Mosul after an air by two Iranian planes on a residential quarter in the city.

INA correspondent in the city said that four children and two women met martyrdom as well when their houses were bombarded by the Iranian planes. Moreover, 28 persons, mostly women, elderly and children were wounded, many residential houses were demolished and many private vehicles were badly damaged.

The Iraqi military spokesman announced that the Iranian regime had fired missile at the city of Mosul at 13:08 (10:08 GMT). The missile hit a residential quarter and resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of a number of civilians and demolishing and damaging a number of residential houses and commercial shops.

Communique Lists Air Raids

JN181919 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,084 issued by the Armed Forces General Command dated 18 March 1988]

[Text] The aircraft of our courageous Air Force today flew 254 combat missions, inflicting heavy losses on remnants of the enemy—killing a large number and destroying equipment and weapons. In addition, our aircraft flew deep into enemy territory to accomplish the following remarkable missions:

1. At 1825 [1525 GMT] yesterday our aircraft dealt a destructive strike on Dezful.

2. At 2100 yesterday our aircraft mounted a big raid on Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

3. At 2230 yesterday our aircraft mounted a destructive strike at Zanjan.

4. After midnight last night our aircraft dealt two accurate, effective hits against two maritime targets—one quite large, the other large near the Iranian coast.

5. At exactly 0800 today our aircraft mounted a second attack against Zanjan.

6. At the same time other aircraft were mounting a destructive strike at Gilan-e Gharb.

7. At 0818 today our aircraft made another strike against Dezful.

8. At 0830 today our aircraft raided (Salahi) to hit selected military targets there.

9. At 0838 today our aircraft made another destructive strike at Kermanshah.

10. At 0930 today our aircraft raided Ilam, pounding targets there.

11. At 1145 today another destructive strike was made against (Salahi).

12. At 1138 today our aircraft mounted a destructive raid against a surface-to-air Hawk missile battery in Tabriz, hitting their targets.

13. At 1330 today our aircraft mounted a destructive raid against Tabriz.

Having completed all their tasks, our all aircraft returned safely and triumphantly to base, except for one aircraft that crashed in enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the safety of its pilot. Glory be to the men of our Air Force for their gigantic efforts. May God be with you on the road to the great victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 March 1988

Communique No 3,085

JN181936 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1806 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,085 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. At 2400 [2100 GMT] yesterday, the enemy sent in a force in an abortive attempt to attack our units of the heroic Dhulfaqar forces in the II Army Corps central sector. A heavy battle developed in which infantry, armor, and the heroic support of the artillery men heroically aquitted themselves. The enemy attack was beaten back and demolished. The enemy sustained heavy losses in personnel who were either killed or wounded. The enemy's confirmed losses were 800 killed. Only those who fled the battle scene escaped, chased by God's curse. The situation was decided completely in favor of our forces. May God bless our men of the heroic Dhulfaqar force and the fighters of the heroic II Army Corps—commanders, officers, and other ranks. Praise be to God for His victory.

2. At 0905 and 1420 today, two enemy aircraft attempted to approach our forward units—the first an F-5 in the III Army Corps sector, and the second an F-4 in the I Army Corps sector. Our defenses in both sectors destroyed and shot them down. They were seen crashing in flames in enemy territory. Blessed be the men of our air defenses in the I and III Army Corps sectors.

3. With great skill, the brave helicopter gunships continued their combat missions in the operations sectors. They inflicted further losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment on the Zionist Khomeyniite enemy. They also destroyed several infantry positions and gun emplacements, and then returned safely to base, protected by God, after 122 combat missions.

4. Out units in the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy:

The destruction of 12 various positions, 3 120-mm rocket launchers, an 81-mm mortar, 6 ammunition dumps, 2 vehicles, 2 light launchers, and 1 single-barreled machinegun, and the killing of 9 scoundrels.

5. Two enemy personnel were killed, two observation posts and a gun emplacement were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. An enemy soldier was killed and an observation post and an infantry position were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. An ammunition dump was blown up and a gun emplacement and an infantry position were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

8. Two vehicles and an infantry position were destroyed and two ammunition dumps were blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

9. The brave Al-'Amiq port force engaged eight enemy boats attempting to approach the Al-'Amiq port and loading platform, and forced them to flee.

10. At 1308 today, the criminal Iranian regime fired a missile at the city of Mosul. The missile fell on a residential area. It martyred and wounded several dear citizens, including women, elders, and children. The missile also destroyed and damaged several houses, shops, and children schools. At 1819 yesterday, an enemy plane raided the city of Irbil, aiming at residential areas in the city. At 0548 and 0550 today, another enemy plane raided the cities of Mosul and Shaykhan, aiming at residential areas, too. This resulted in the martyring and wounding of several citizens, including women, elders, and children, and in demolishing and damaging several houses, shops, and civilian cars. The criminal Iranian regime also directed the fire of its long-range artillery at residential areas in the cities of Basra, Al-'Uzayr, Al-Qurnah, Khanaqin, and Badrah. Several citizens were martyred or wounded, including several women, elders, and children. The shelling also demolished and damaged houses, civilian property, and children's schools. May God have mercy on our martyrs, and swift recovery to our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 March 1988

Karkuk, Mosul Hit by Missiles

JN181940 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1921 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 18 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1930 [1630 GMT] today, the criminal Iranian enemy fired a missile at Karkuk.

At 2006 today the enemy fired another missile at Mosul.

Both missiles fell in residential neighborhoods, wounding or martyring a number of our dear citizens, including many women, elderly, and children. They caused destruction or damage to homes, business premises, civilian cars, and other property.

May our martyrs go to paradise and swift recovery for our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 18 March 1988

Baghdad Targeted 19 Mar

JN191031 Baghdad INA in English 1025 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, March 19, INA—An Iranian missile landed at one of Baghdad's residential districts this afternoon, killing and injuring a number of civilians, among them women, children and elderly rpeople.

An Iraqi military spokesman said just now that the missile, which was fired at 12:30 hours (09:30 GMT), also demolished some houses and caused damage to commercial shops and other public property.

'Deadly' Hit on Khark Island

JN191149 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1111 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,086 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O lofty Iraqis: As God granted your ancestors strength and determination and made them triumph over polytheism, God today grants you a leader descending from the prophet of mercy to lead you to safety, to punish your enemies, and to protect your sanctities and territory. God grants you invincible determination and immense strength to destroy idols and their tools of existence. Your continuous devastating blows to the rancorous racist clique are unique in the history of war. They express your unlimited capabilities, O genuine people, when the leader is united with the masses.

Your gigantic Air Force, which covered all areas of conflict, including Iranian territory, east and west, north and south, with tons of lethal bombs, today records a new brave act and deals a deadly stab to the element on which the enemy relies to prolong the aggression.

At 1200 [0900 GMT] today, a very large number of our planes penetrated to the oil tanker holding area east of Khark Island. With the courage and skill for which our rapacious hawks are known, and with skillful field planning, our planes penetrated the intensive enemy air defenses in this area and dropped their bombs on many tankers of various types and size, destroyed their targets, set them ablaze, and left columns of smoke billowing from the area.

This daring operation—with this number of planes at such a distance, amid intensive air defenses—can only be carried out by men like those of Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

O men of our Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks—you have achieved glory because you deserve it. You gained the honor of destroying the enemy to achieve the great final victory. Forward, and God is with you.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 March 1988

Planes Raid Iranian Cities

JN191219 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1151 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 19 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The planes of our brave Air Force carried out the following heroic missions inside Iranian territory:

1. At 2156 [1856 GMT] last night, our planes directed a devastating strike at the city of Kermanshah.

2. At 2255 last night, our planes raided the city of Hamadan.

3. At 0845 this morning, our planes directed strikes at the city of Hamadan also.

4. At 1049 our planes directed another devastating strike at the city of Kermanshah.

5. At 1128, our planes directed a devastating strike at the city of Dezful.

Having carried out their missions, all our planes returend safely to base under God's protection.

[Dated] 19 March 1988

Battle With Kurdish 'Traitors'

JN191233 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1248 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,087 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Like all covetous invaders, the Zionist Khomeyniite forces relied on some of those who betrayed the homeland and people in the northern area of Iraq—those who our good Kurdish people expelled from their ranks. Those elements performed shameful services for foreigners. Among their shameful acts was facilitating the missions of the invasion forces in entering the Halabjah border villages in the Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate.

As an expression of the will of the great Iraqi people, the brave Armed Forces, and the good honorable nationalists from our Kurdish people; and in response to the treason of this stray clique; the brave Badr forces, the brave Al-Qa'qa' forces, the brave Al-Mu'tasim forces, and the forces affiliated with them from our Armed Forces and the national defense groups, carried out the Anfal operation under the supervision of Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim, who is temporarily assigned to this mission in addition to his regular duties. Our forces attacked the headquarters of the rebellion led by traitor Jalal Talabani, the agent to the Iranian regime, the enemy of the Arabs and Kurds, in the (Sirkalu, Barkalu, and Ziwah) area and in the rough mountainous areas in Al-Sulaymaniyah. At 1300 [1000GMT] today, after a brave and avenging battle with the traitors, the headquarters of the rebellion was occupied. The commander of the force guarding the rebellion headquarters, and a number of traitors and misguided elements, were captured with God's help and with the determination of the zealous men of Iraq—Arabs and Kurds. Many were killed and others escaped in shame.

This is a unique bravery and faithfulness. This is a struggle admired by the entire world, the struggle of leader Saddam Husayn's people, Arabs and Kurds, who placed themselves in the service of the homeland and gave their love and faithfulness to their great leader, the symbol of their victory and title of their prosperity. Our people have rejected from their ranks all traitors who sold themselves cheaply to the covetous foreign enemy.

Praise be to God for His victory. Shame to the ignominious.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 March 1988

Shelling of Basra Continues

JN191603 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Basra, 19 Mar (INA)—An INA correspondent in the Al-Basrah Governorate, southern Iraq, has said that the city of Basra has been exposed to intensified Iranian shelling by artillery and rocket launchers. The correspondent said that the shelling, which was aimed at densely populated areas, martyred more children and women and damaged several houses and shops.

Kurds Support Action

JN192104 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1610 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Thousands of the sons of our Kurdish people took to the streets of Irbil, expressing their joy and chanting in support for President leader Saddam Husayn following the occupation of the headquarters of traitor Jalal Talabani, leader of the rebels and agent of the Iranian regime. An INA correspondent said that the crowds held spontaneous marches immediately after the Armed Forces' communique was broadcast. The communique announced the occupation of the headquarters of the traitor, the enemy of the Arabs and Kurds. The crowds chanted slogans glorifying Iraq and its brave Army, which is recording the greatest epics in defending the borders and the lofty mountains.

The Kurdish crowds also hailed the victory achieved by the heroic 1st National Defense Force, the brave Al-Qa'qa' forces, the brave Al-Mu'tasim forces, and the National Defense Groups over the agent traitors in the (Sirkalu), (Barkalu), and (Ziwah) areas, and the rugged mountain areas. The crowds' chants reiterated pledges to President Saddam Husayn to continue sacrifices and to defend the homeland against the criminal Iranian enemy and its traitor agents, until a decisive victory is achieved in the battle of honor and dignity.

The great popular rally, which gathered in front of the Irbil office of the Ba'th Party, was received by Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir al-Naqshabandi, chairman of the Legislative Council in the Kurdistan Autonomous Region; Sirwan 'Abdallah al-Jaf, chairman of the Executive Council; the secretaries general of the autonomous administrations; Ibrahim Zanganah, governor of the Governorate of Irbil; and the secretaries and members of the Irbil branch.

Communique No 3,088

JN191809 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1709 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,088 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces are continuing their combat activities in the operation sectors. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. The planes of our gigantic Air Force flew 104 combat missions to deal crushing blows to the enemy's units, equipment, and weapons in the operational sectors, and to inflict heavy losses on the hostile war machine. They also carried out the following heroic duties inside Iranian territory:

A. At 2156 [1856 GMT] yesterday, our planes dealt a destructive blow to the city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

B. At 0845 today, our planes raided the city of Hamadan.

C. At 1049 our planes dealt another destructive blow to the city of Kermanshah.

D. At 1128, our planes directed a devastating strike at the city of Dezful. All our planes returned safely to their bases under God's protection.

2. The brave knights of the helicopter gunships flew 165 combat missions last night and today. Through their brave operations, as usual, they inflicted Iraq's decisive punishment on the aggressors' remnants, weapons, equipment, and vehicles. They returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

3. As announced by a military spokesman's statement issued this morning, we have ascertained that one of the two F-5 planes that raided the city of Irbil the day before yesterday, 17 March, was shot down at 1814 on that day by the units of the Iraqi Air Defense Force. The plane's wreckage was found in the Ziyarat area behind Safin Mountain.

4. Our units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed 18 scoundrels; destroyed 2 tanks, 3 tubular launchers, and 1 medium machinegun; burned and destroyed 8 vehicles and 1 shovel [preceding word in English]; and blew up 2 ammunition dumps.

5. Three infantry positions and one medium machinegun were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar Forces.

6. Four ammunition dumps were destroyed, one vehicle was burned, and two enemy personnel were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

7. Four scoundrels were killed in the IV Army Corp sector east of Maysan.

8. One of the enemy personnel was killed and one observation post was destroyed in the VII Army Corps front.

9. At 1930 yesterday, the criminal Iranian regime fired one of its missiles at the city of Kirkuk. At 2003, it fired another missile at the city of Mosul. It also directed a third missile at the city of Baghdad at 1230 today. The three missiles landed in residential areas, killing or wounding a number of dear citizens—including women, children and elders—and either destroying or damaging a number of houses, shops, and other properties. The criminal enemy used its long-range artillery to shell the residential areas in the cities of Basra, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Al-'Amarah, 'Ali al-Gharbi, Badrah, Qal'at Dizah, Al-Qurnah, Al-Dayr, and the Barikah housing complex in the 'Arabad Subdistrict. The shelling martyred or wounded a number of civilians, including women, elders, and children. It also destroyed or damaged a number of houses, shops, schools, and hospitals. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 March 1988

31st Missile Strike on Tehran

JN191745 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1728 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 19 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our country, which rejected the policy of war; which called for peace out of its principles; and which honorably and courageously defended its territory, sanctities, and sovereignty, is capable of continuing its heroic sacrifices on the battlefronts and in construction. Our country is also capable of deterring the agressors, throwing them into confusion, and making them reap the destruction they sought.

Our gigantic missile force, with the courage of its men, and the sacrifices of the faithful men of the military industries continue to make the Iranian rulers experience Iraq's hell, while awaiting that of God. At 1936 [1636 GMT] today, the 31st missile strike with Al-Husayn missiles was launched at the city of Tehran. We will proceed on the road of sacred struggle until we impose peace on our enemies.

100th Al-Husayn Missile Fired

JN191822 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Statement issued by a military spokesman dated 19 March]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate [passage omitted]. At 2030 [1730 GMT] today, the 100th Al-Husayn missile was fired at the city of Tehran, to affirm that Iraq is the victor and that they will be destroyed. God always carries out His will.

[Dated] 19 March 1988

Baghdad Hit by Missile

JN200615 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 20 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0030 today [2130 GMT on 19 March], the Zionist Iranian regime fired a missile on Baghdad. The missile landed on a residential quarter, martyring and wounding a number of our dear citizens, including women and children. The missile attack also destroyed and damaged a number of houses, civilian vehicles, and other property.

May mercy be the lot of our martyrs and may a swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 20 March 1988

II Army Corps Thwarts Attack

JN201315 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1244 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 20 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. No matter how the superstitious Iranian rulers try to conceal the truth regarding what has befallen them and the Iranian peoples who have been afflicted with their rule, what they seek to achieve will be no more than a mirage, quick to fade and to be eradicated by Iraq's strikes and its certain victory, whose shining light can never be concealed by the wornout veils of the charlatans. Once again, these renegade miserable people sought to try their bad luck. Hence, at midnight last night, they pushed one force of their herds, supported by tanks, artillery and mortar guns, to attack the positions of our units affiliated with the valiant Muslim ibn 'Aqil forces in the heroic II Army Corps central sector.

The courageous infantry men of the Muslim ibn 'Aqil forces, splendidly supported by the men of armor and artillery, were lying in wait, to inflict on them Iraq's wrath and its hot fires. They managed to inflict large losses on the enemy. The confirmed losses were 1200 personnel killed, a large number of personnel wounded, and tens of others captured. The only scoundrels that survived are those who were captured or fled the scene, totally defeated. Blessed be the real men of the Muslim ibn 'Aqil forces as well as all men of our valiant II Army Corps, the corps which claims heroic feats—commanders, officers, and other ranks. Praise be the Lord for the victory that He grants us. He is the best giver.

[Dated] 20 March 1988

Shamir Aide Discusses 'Removing' Saudi Missiles

TA200608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Report on interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director of the Prime Minister's Office, by U.S. correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Israel knew about the stationing of missiles in Saudi Arabia from its own sources, but Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, disclosed that the U.S. Administration informed Israel about it a few days ago. He added that the United States said it informed the PRC of the gravity of the issue, as the missiles can carry nuclear warheads. The United States also drew the Saudis' attention to the gravity of deploying the missiles, which it said is an unjustified move.

The Saudis tried to explain that the missiles are a means of defense against the Iranians. I do not think the United States was convinced by these assertions, Ben-Aharon said. The prime minister and other Israeli figures reacted very harshly, calling on the United States to take all necessary measures. The administration also informed the prime minister's entourage of its intention to leak news of the missile deployment to U.S. media; this was done at the end of last week.

Question: Is the United States aware of the possibility that Israel will remove the missile on its own if U.S. efforts are unproductive?

Ben-Aharon: This possibility always exists. We have a reputation of not waiting until a potential danger becomes real. I do not want to say anything about this. I join in the U.S. view that this is a very grave phenomenon, which is part of a growing process of acquiring sophisticated weapons in our region.

Question: In view of the fact that the Soviet foreign minister and the prime minister will be in the United States at the beginning of this week, is there a possibility that they will meet?

Ben-Aharon: I do not thInk so.

[Schiffer] I wish to point out that a Soviet diplomat hinted about such a possibility to his Israeli counterpart in the United Nations, but the prime minister's entourage decided not to encourage this initiative.

Question: What type of proposal will the prime minister bring to the Inner Cabinet on his return?

Ben-Aharon: It will be up to the prime minister to decide how to present the issue. In general, Mr Shamir continues to keep his cards close to his chest, and his aides also are not prepared to make them known.

Moda'i on 'New Nuclear Threat'

TA201838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Report by Jack Katzenell]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Likud's Yitzhaq Moda'i said the Chinese sales to Saudi Arabia have introduced a completely new nuclear threat into the Middle East. You cannot compare these missiles with those which Iran and Iraq have been firing at each other, Moda'i says. They are shorter-range, and carry heavier warheads. The Chinese missiles are ballistic, and are so expensive that they don't make sense without nuclear warheads.

[Begin Moda'i recording] You would easily understand that unless it carries with it an atomic head, it does not pay to send a normal bomb which can weigh anywhere between 300, and possibly 350 kgs. You don't invest that much money in sending a normal bomb, a normal exploding bomb. [end recording]

Moda'i says that China has no right to demand a role at an international conference on the Middle East if it introduces a new nuclear threat into the region.

Cabinet Views Unrest, Missiles

TA201240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami on Sunday's regular cabinet meeting—live]

[Text] Toward the end of the cabinet meeting the ministers received a report on the wounding of the soldier in Bethlehem. This was preceded by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's report on the current state of security in the territories; such a report has become the practice in the past few weeks. Minister Rabin reported on the change in regulations concerning soldiers opening fire at those throwing Molotov cocktails at them. Minister Rabin made clear that the individual responsible must be ascertained, and only when the soldier is sure who threw the firebomb is he permitted to open fire. When somebody participating in a demonstration throws a firebomb, there is, of course, no approval to open fire at the entire group of demonstrators.

Minister Hayim Kaufman, who in a previous meeting demanded an easing in regulations concerning opening fire, expressed satisfaction with the change at the cabinet meeting.

There was also a very sharp attack by Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal on Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, who said in an interview to the Voice of Israel this morning that Israel might take moves on its own initiative to destroy the Chinese missiles bought and deployed by Saudi Arabia. Minister Shahal asked Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who chaired today's

meeting, whether this declaration by the director general was made with the knowledge of the prime minister. Shahal demanded that Ben-Aharon be reprimanded for revealing information to the media without the authority to do so. This is not the first time Ben-Aharon has disclosed documents which harm security, Shahal said. Shahal also demanded that Peres call on the civil service commissioner to take disciplinary action against Ben-Aharon and inform him what a civil servant is permitted to do and what is forbidden.

Another issue: Following Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev's report, Minister Hayim Kaufman asked Minister Bar-Lev why the police don't withhold licenses for demonstrations on Land Day on 30 March because of possible riots and police manpower problems. Minister Bar-Lev said that after taking into consideration all possible aspects, police district commanders can withhold licenses to demonstrate, but so far no requests to demonstrate have been made; the problem, therefore, has not yet arisen. In general, this was a fairly quiet meeting for the first time in weeks. There were no verbal shouting matches. The absence of the prime minister was strongly felt, and of course everybody is waiting for his return in midweek in anticipation over what will happen: Will the prime minister convene the Inner Cabinet on Wednesday immediately on his return, and will the Shultz initiative by raised at Wednesday's meeting, voted on, and a decision taken?

IDF Developing 'Solutions'

TA210854 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Mar 88 p 11

[Report by military correspondent Dani Sade]

[Excerpt] With the help of U.S. financing, the IDF is developing various solutions for the interception of surface-to-surface missiles, a senior IDF officer said yesterday, alluding to the missiles of this type which Saudi Arabia has purchased from the PRC.

According to the senior officer, such development is very expensive, but "the solutions being worked out meet our needs and will be both effective, cheap, and serve many purposes. I would not say I am not worried about the Saudi missiles, but there is no reason to panic in the near future," he said.

The officer added that "the Saudi missiles mainly represent a psychological threat, because they can carry a 300-kg warhead while a modern aircraft can carry 5 tons of bombs."

According to him, "all the countries surrounding us have surface-to-surface missiles, and anybody who develops such missiles will probably want them to carry chemical, biological, and even nuclear warheads at some point. After all, nobody expects these missiles to carry anything but explosives," the officer said. [passage omitted]

Soldier Shot in Bethlehem; IDF Closes Area

TA201013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Here is an item just in: A soldier was shot and wounded in Bethlehem, our correspondent Arye Gus reports. It appears that while standing at an observation post, the soldier was shot by an unknown assailant armed with a rifle. The IDF has closed the area.

Soldier Dies of Wounds

TA201516 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] The IDF soldier who was shot in Bethlehem this morning has died of his wounds. His family has been notified. The IDF spokesman announces that at about 1100 the soldier was at an observation post near an Interior Ministry branch in Bethlehem. An unknown person came up to him and fired a few shots at him from close range. The soldier was critically wounded and transferred to the Jerusalem Hadassah Hospital, where he died. A blockade has been imposed on the area, and detentions were carried out. Testimony is being collected from businessmen in the area, and the search is continuing.

Shamir Discusses 'Murder'

TA210618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he views the murder of Reserve Sergeant Moshe Katz in Bethlehem with the utmost gravity. The cabinet will make the appropriate decisions in reaction to the murder, said the prime minister. This was reported by our correspondent in the United States Shim'on Schiffer.

Our correspondent further reports that the prime minister was greeted with enthusiasm by thousands of Jews in Brooklyn. Mr Shamir addressed some 2,000 Jews and supporters in a mass rally in Brooklyn's Music Academy Hall. He said that there would be no international conference without Israel's consent. He defined the reports claiming that Israel would be invited to the conference against its will as nonsense. Mr Shamir made these remarks in a meeting with leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Rabin on IDF Security Upgrade

TA201930 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Rabin said this evening that the murder of Israeli soldier Moshe Katz is a serious event which will force the IDF to adapt and perhaps even upgrade the strictness of its activities. There had been attempts to hurt IDF soldiers with hand grenades and weapons, but this is the first case an Israeli soldier has been murdered since the beginning of the riots. If the

terrorists combine terror acts with the disturbances, Rabin says, we will have to adapt our actions and make them more strict. Rabin was speaking at a rally at the Western Wall in Jerusalem in honor of volunteers from abroad.

Shomron Calls Situation 'Grave'

TA201329 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] The chief of staff says that today's attack on the soldier is very grave, and he believes that the more the IDF succeeds in preventing disturbances, the more there will be incidents where firearms are used against soldiers and civilians. Lieutenant General Dan Shomron told our correspondent Arye Gus, however, that it is still too early to define this stage as a transition to an armed struggle. There are a lot of weapons in Judaea and Samaria, and they have rarely been used so far. Soldiers have a clearcut order to use weapons in each incident where their lives are endangered.

Bethlehem Mayor on Killing

TA210602 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj says he expects the situation in the country to worsen following yesterday's murder in the town. Frayj said the incident would cause hatred and violence to increase to the detriment of everyone. Frayj added that he is sorry for all who have been killed, whether they are Israeli or Palestinian.

Prime Minister Interviewed on U.S. Talks

TA181948 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Nisim Mish'al in Washington upon the conclusion of Shamir's official visit on 17 March—videotaped]

[Text] [Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, in his speech President Reagan said that you did not reject the U.S. initiative. Is the President right? Are you not rejecting the plan indeed?

[Shamir] This is not a question of definitions. I have said, and let me repeat, that I am prepared to cooperate with the secretary of state in his efforts to promote peace in our region, but all our discussions and arguments concentrated on a single problem, which is the first stage contained in the secretary's proposals, the international conference, and there is no doubt that I opposed that.

[Mish'al] Mr Prime Minister, why don't you, at a moment of truth, arise and openly say: I am against the initiative. Why this vagueness?

[Shamir] There is no vagueness here, since, after all, we will never tell the secretary of state: let us alone; do not go to the Middle East; do not engage in Middle East affairs...

[Mish'al, interrupting] You are still saying no to most of his plan.

[Shamir] I am saying no to those clauses under discussion. At this stage I am focusing my opposition to the international conference matter.

[Mish'al] Have you noticed that with this opposition you insist on a procedural rather than a substantive matter?

[Shamir] The entire plan is procedural by nature. There had indeed been talk that we would deal with substance rather than procedure, but ultimately speaking, the final proposal is purely procedural.

[Mish'al] This leads me to the next question then: What next, Sir?

[Shamir] I think discussions will continue, both in the United States and between us and the United States. Later, the U.S. Government will have to decide...

[Mish'al, interrupting] You are referring to the Israeli Government.

[Shamir] Both the Israeli and the U.S. Governments. After all, without the Israeli Government this project cannot be carried through. This is it then.

[Mish'al] Speaking of the Israeli Government, do you intend to bring a draft resolution to the Inner Cabinet to accept or reject the U.S. initiative?

[Shamir] Before my departure I promised that upon my return from the United States I would report on everything that has taken place here, and the Inner Cabinet would discuss matters and decide.

[Mish'al] What motion will you bring to the Inner Cabinet?

[Shamir] I will say what I just said to the Inner Cabinet.

[Mish'al] Are you aware that if you brought a motion to reject the initiative, for example, it would not be adopted due to the tie there?

[Shamir] It is clear that I have to take into account the procedural aspect of the Inner Cabinet discussions as well, not only of the Shultz initiative. There is the other side too, though. The vice prime minister pressed for an Inner Cabinet decision prior to my trip to the United States, so I assume that he has some proposals he intends to bring before the Inner Cabinet.

[Mish'al] With the government being in such a condition, are you considering a possibility of early elections?

[Shamir] Early election proposals fill the air, after all.

[Mish'al] But what is your position following the visit here?

[Shamir] These proposals fill the air not only in the wake of the visit; they come in the wake of the internal condition of the government, first and foremost. I think this could be the main reason for early elections.

[Mish'al] Do you support this?

[Shamir] I do not support this now, but I am thinking about it. I have not yet consolidated my opinion on it. I will return home and consult with my friends. I am not excluding this possibility, though.

Shamir Seeks To Avert Rejection of Peace Plan

TA201029 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Mar 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] Los Angeles—Prime Minister Shamir will continue his attempts, when he returns home, to avert a clear-cut Israeli rejection of the American peace plan, and will propose to the cabinet that it authorize "continued contacts with the U.S.", sources close to the prime minister said yesterday.

"The only man who can now cause the American proposals to be rejected is Foreign Minister Peres," said an aide to Shamir, alluding to the possibility that Labour will present the American proposals in their present form for a cabinet vote.

Peres, Israeli sources here said, may also visit the U.S. in the next few weeks. Israeli officials in Washington are in contact with the State Department to secure an appropriate date for such a visit, they said.

Despite repeated American statements that the peace proposals will not be changed, sources close to Shamir continue to maintain that Secretary of State Shultz may revise his proposal for an international conference to bring it closer to Shamir's version of superpower "invitation" to peace talks.

Shamir has rejected an American suggestion that he submit a complete list of his reservations about the international conference. "Our reservations are in principle," said a source close to Shamir, "we have said 'no'—and that is enough."

The Americans, who made the proposal to Shamir's aides in Washington on Thursday, wished to "entrap" Shamir in convoluted negotiations on the modalities of the international conference, the source claimed. [passage omitted]

Labor Analyzes Situation

TA201032 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Mikhal Yudelman]

[Excerpt] Labour will object to any effort by Prime Minister Shamir to have the cabinet decide "not to decide" on the Shultz initiative when it meets Wednesday, and Labour ministers do not rule out the possibility of a government crisis which could lead to the party's withdrawal from the government.

Vice Prime Minister Peres yesterday refused to comment on reports that Shamir intends to reach a decision not to decide on the peace initiative, thereby giving the Jordanians the first opportunity to reject the plan. He said the reports were merely speculative at this point. But other Labour sources said the party will insist on a decision.

"It's shameful that Israel should wait for the Shultz initiative to be sabotaged by another country, instead of initiating moves to encourage peace negotiations," one Labour minister said. "Shamir promised to bring the issue for a cabinet decision when he returned and we shall insist that he does so. Israel cannot continue any longer without a clear, unequivocal stand on the peace initiative."

If the government rejects the Shultz initiative—or avoids a decision—Labour may decide to leave the national unity government, leaving the Likud with a narrow-based majority until the elections, a Labour Party minister told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday. [passage omitted]

Eban To Relay Sinyurah's Brussels Proposals

TA201540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] The Israeli-Palestinian peace meeting in Brussels ended today without a joint communique and without decisions. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that Knesset Member [MK] Abba Eban promised to relay to Labor Party members the proposals raised by AL-FAJR Editor Hanna Sinyurah, and has called on both Arabs and Palestinians to accept the Shultz plan. Reserve Major General Aharon Yariv said Yasir 'Arafat will be able to cause a change in Israel's public opinion if he declares that he will recognize the State of Israel in return for the Israeli Government's recognition of the Palestinians' right of self-determination. Journalist Ziyad Abu Ziyad expressed the hope that the next meeting will take place between MK's from Israel's major parties and PNC and PLO members.

PLO Wants Peace Negotiations

TA202105 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] At the Israeli-Palestinian symposium held in Brussels, AL-FAJR Editor Hanna Sinyurah today declared that the PLO of 1988 is not the PLO of 1964. According to Sinyurah, the PLO no longer wants the liquidation of Israel and wants a solution through negotiations which will lead to a peace agreement. About 20 Israeli and Palestinian personages participated in the Brussels symposium. No PLO or Israeli Government representatives participated in it. The symposium was organized by the secular Jewish communal center of Belgium, and was entitled "Give peace a chance." The participants included Knesset Member Abba Eban, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and reserve Major General Yehoshafat Harkabi.

Car Bomb Near Embassy in Tokyo; No Casualties

TA211246 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] News just in from Tokyo: A car bomb exploded near the Israeli Embassy in the center of town. There are no casualties among the embassy employees; we repeat there are no casualties. We were told this only a few minutes ago. There were several other explosions at the same time in the Japanese capital. The Tokyo police have launched an investigation, but it is not yet clear who is behind these attacks. The assumption is that it is extreme leftist groups. It was also reported from Tokyo that property was damaged, including shattered windows at the Saudi airlines office.

Further on Explosions

TA211447 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Tokyo was not damaged by the explosions in the city today, and none of its employees were hurt. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami was told that the explosives were planted in a parking lot used by employees of a television station adjacent to the embassy building. The analysis in Jerusalem is that the explosions are part of a series of protests and demonstrations by Japanese organizations that oppose the expansion of the Tokyo airport; therefore, there is no link between the explosion and Israel.

Contrary to the view in Jerusalem, however, our correspondent Ofer Feldman reports from police sources in Tokyo that there was an additional explosion today near the Saudi Arabian airline. It appears, therefore, that there is a connection between the explosions.

IDF Distributes Leaflets in Tulkarm, Qalqilyah

TA191238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] In leaflets it disseminated in Tulkarm and Qalqilyah today, the IDF called on the residents of both towns to return to normal life. The leaflets state that the IDF is present in both these places to maintain order and security, and will not harm either property or people if its tasks are not disrupted. The leaflet further states that the IDF has information regarding who is responsible for the disturbances. The leaflet adds that those who are hurt by the riots are the residents themselves, since their sources of livelihood have been affected, the education of their children has been stopped, and their way of life has been disrupted. The 1936 and 1948 incidents also, as is stated in the leaflet, began in a similar manner, with the price being paid by generations of Palestinians to this very day.

Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that this morning the IDF closed down Tulkarm shops that opened contrary to the order banning the opening of businesses before noon.

IDF, SLA Search for Katyusha Sites in Maydun

TA191417 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] IDF and South Lebanese Army [SLA] forces this morning searched north of the security zone to locate katyusha launching sites. At the end of the search the forces returned to their base. Nobody was hurt. The operation was carried out in the area of the village of Maydun in the eastern sector, north of the security zone. This village is known as a place where terrorists organize. During the search, mortar and small arms fire came from within the village. The searching forces returned fire, destroyed a machine gun position and hit three structures where terrorists were hiding. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht notes that in recent months most of the Maydun residents abandoned their village, which is ruled by terrorist organizations, including the Hizballah.

Security sources in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' reported that Hizballah people this morning shelled several villages controlled by SLA soldiers. The SLA soldiers, for their part, shelled several villages controlled by the terrorists.

Rabin Defends Measures Against Palestinians

LD191549 Hamburg DPA in German 1501 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli minister of defense, intends to adhere to his present conduct against the rebellious Palestinians. In an interview with the Hamburg news magazine DER SPIEGEL he emphatically defended the present measures against the Palestinians, mentioning as measures for future conduct the continuation of Israel's military presence in the occupied territories, the arrest of participants in

violent demonstrations and their instigators, as well as economic measures against areas and villages "from which violent elements operate."

Rabin, who is a member of the Social Democratic Labor Party, emphasized that it is the first time Arabs living under Israeli control have offered civilian resistance. In his view the unrest had erupted spontaneously. The PLO too had been "completely surprised."

Concerning a possible peace with Israel's Arab neighbors, Rabin said the solution has to be sought in peace with Jordan as a Jordanian-Palestinian state. This could and should include parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. However, the Jordan River would have to be Israel's defense frontier, "the areas west of the river would have to remain demilitarized." In this case his party—in contrast to the Likud bloc coalition partner—would also be prepared for territorial compromises. However, Israel would "on no account" return to the borders as they existed before the 6-day War, "let alone divide Jerusalem once again."

The interview will be published in next Monday's edition of the magazine.

New Trends Emerging in PLO Guidelines

TA201954 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] New trends have emerged in the PLO's guidelines to the population in the territories. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says the PLO is now moving to dissuade Arab residents from shopping in Jewish settlements. The PLO mainly calls on the Arab residents to stop coming to the shops in the Jewish neighborhoods of Jerusalem. Furthermore, the PLO wants to toughen the rules of the strike by demanding that the Arabs stop operating stalls in the streets when the shops are closed. PLO elements especially threaten Arab butchers and restaurant owners who are described as strike breakers. Our correspondent says the instruction on not shopping in Jewish settlements, as well as the instruction on changing the time of opening shops in East Jerusalem to the morning hours, have already bewildered the Arab public.

Al-Shabibah Movement Declared Illegal

TA191821 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The Al-Shabibah Movement has been declared illegal because it belongs to the Fatah organization and its members are engaged, among other things, in enlisting youths to the Fatah for the purpose of perpetrating terrorist acts. They are involved in throwing Molotov cocktails and stones, in incitement, and in harming strike breakers in the course of riots in the territories. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that, according to the order that outlawed the organization, every member of this movement faces detention and trial. The decree was issued only this evening, but several Al-Shabibah clubs in Judaea and Samaria have already been closed down. Elementary, high school, and university students, as well as youths who are outside the school framework are members of this movement.

Wider Use of Administrative Detentions Approved

TA201024 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Mar 88 pp 1, 7

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] The chief of staff has approved new wording for extra-judicial administrative arrest orders in the territories. The new decree, which was signed by the commanders of the IDF regional commands over the weekend, will not be subject to judicial review.

The new decree actually represents a return to the old administrative arrest procedures that were amended in 1979 in keeping with then Prime Minister Menachem Begin's pledge to U.S. President Jimmy Carter as part of the agreements reached by Israel and Egypt in the Camp David Accords.

Publication of the new decree has been postponed until after Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's return from the United States because defense establishment officials feared that such a move—which will most probably earn wide U.S. criticism—might tarnish and hinder Shamir's visit to Washington. [passage omitted]

The new decree signed by the chief of staff gives the authority to issue such orders to a military commander who is authorized to order arrests for 6-month periods with an option to extend. The arrests will not be submitted to any judicial review, and detainees will be able to file complaints only with an appeals committee. At the same time, the new procedures do not order the committee to hold a hearing at least every 6 months because, according to the new decree, the length of the arrest has been limited to 6 months each time.

The new decree will apply to all administrative arrest orders issued under the previous decree.

The reason for reverting to the old decree, even at the cost of provoking U.S. and Egyptian protests, is the wish to ease the heavy burden on the military courts and military prosecutors in the territories in view of the large amount of administrative arrest orders issued in the last 3 months as a result of the riots.

It is planned to make wide use of administrative arrests in the territories to deal a blow to what is thought to be the leadership of the riots, and to use the new decree to arrest hundreds of people suspected of being involved in political activities.

Arabs Plan General Strike for Land Day

TA201658 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Israeli Arabs will stage a general strike on Land Day, next Wednesday, 30 March. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the decision was made unanimously by Arab organization leaders after a stormy discussion. Several local council heads suggested to limit the day protests to meetings, gatherings, and partial strikes, but a vast majority supported a general strike. It was further decided to hold four gatherings on Land Day: in Sakhnin, Kafr Kanna, Al-Taiyiba in the Triangle, and in Rahat in the Negev.

The Arab Local Councils Committee chairman, Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, issued a call to the Israeli Arabs to maintain calm and order and to the police to stay away from the villages.

Land Day will be renamed this year to the "Day of Equality and Peace."

Police Interrogate HADASH Activists in North

TA190837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] movement claims that the police have interrogated or summoned for interrogation more than 100 of its activists in the north over the past few days. Among those interrogated were the deputy mayor of Nazareth, a local council member, members of workers councils, and members of workers unions in the Arab villages of the Galilee. A statement issued by HADASH says the police have taken this step to terrorize the Arab population and to force it not to strike on Land Day, in approximately 2 weeks.

Police sources told our correspondent Yo'el Dar that the number of those interrogated is much smaller and the interrogation dealt with the part played by these activists in disturbances that occurred on Peace Day, 3 months ago.

Physicians Institute Follow-Up Committee

TA191730 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] A meeting of Israeli and Palestinian physicians has decided to set up a committee to follow up the treatment extended to riot casualties in Judaea and Samaria hospitals. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that 100 physicians participated in the meeting, most of them Israelis.

The Education Ministry banned for distribution in schools a Palestinian biweekly in Hebrew named GESHER [BRIDGE in Hebrew], whose editor is journalist Ziyad Abu Ziyad. Our correspondent Mikha'el Miro reports that the ministry's legal adviser, Arye Brick, informed school principals of this.

Slogan Urges 'Death to Collaborators'

TA191045 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Death to collaborators. This slogan was painted in large Arabic letters on a flower shop in the village of Rama, on the main road between 'Akko and Zefat. The police have opened an investigation and announced that detentions are expected to take place. This is the first time such a slogan has been painted in Arab villages in Israel.

IDF General on Gaza Unrest, Attack on Civilian

TA181919 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, by military affairs correspondent Dani Levi; date and place not given—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Mordekhay] The main characteristic of activity in the Gaza Strip in recent weeks are local disturbances, chiefly by children, although we have had irregular disturbances here and there, with their foci being in several refugee camps: Al-Burayj, Al-Nusayrat, and Al-Shati'. Still, at all these places the problem was solved almost immediately upon the arrival and handling of the problem by the IDF soldiers. In conclusion, it can be said that the disturbances are of a local nature. They are usually led by children, by the shabab [youths in Arabic], and upon the arrival of the army the problems are solved at once.

[Levi] Has the ongoing curfew brought about a positive turning point among the local population?

[Mordekhay] We imposed a curfew during the night hours for two main reasons: first, because of the resignation of the policemen there, we had to prevent movements by all sorts of undesirable elements in the area, prevent them from taking advantage of the dark for criminal offenses. We imposed a curfew to restrict the freedom of movement of such elements. The chief reason, however, is the security one. All kinds of elements in the Gaza Strip used the night for the transmission of messages, leaflets, and various kinds of equipment, including attempts to sabotage the traffic arteries. The curfew was imposed to restrict their ability to move from one place to another under the cover of darkness. The residents of the Gaza Strip are still able, during the hours when the curfew is not in effect, to leave for work and lead their normal daily lives.

[Levi] Has the curfew indeed led to the results you have mentioned?

[Mordekhay] I have no doubt, on the basis of talks with locals—from the local point of view—and on the basis of my checks with IDF commanders—from the security point of view—that results have been positive in both these spheres.

[Levi] Maj Gen Mordekhay, what is your attitude about the attack on the Israeli civilian at Al-Shaykh Ridwan?

[Mordekhay] I take a very grave view of this. This is an attempt to return to the sphere of terror. There have been several such indications in recent weeks; this is the third of its kind. Whoever adopts the method of terrorism should know and clearly understand that we will fight him as we fight terror, without mercy. Our hand will reach him wherever he may be. I do not have the slightest doubt that we will finally reach those who use arms or bombs with the intention of attacking the citizens of the State of Israel or the IDF soldiers.

[Levi] In your estimation, is the squad that attacked the Israeli civilian a single one that has operated lately in the Gaza Strip?

[Mordekhay] This is a local squad that possesses arms—a pistol and a submachine gun—and perhaps other means of warfare as well. I assume there are several squads in the Gaza Strip that possess arms and sabotage materials, and they have found an easy prey, an Israeli civilian at an isolated place who was engaged in drilling for a water facility. The absurdity is that he came to help the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip to find sources of fresh water, and found himself hurt by terrorists who ambushed him. We will wage a deadly war against such squads. The patience we exercise in handling disturbances will not apply to war against terror. A war against terror will be waged with all the power at the IDF's disposal.

IDF, UNRWA Gaza Casualty Figures Differ

TA181625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] UNRWA says that more than 400 residents were wounded this week in clashes with the security forces in the Gaza Strip refugee camps. An announcement by the organization's headquarters in Nicosia states that 165 were injured as a result of beating; 216 were teargassed; 25 injured by rubber bullets; and 10 injured by live ammunition. UNRWA says the casualties include a 60-year-old blind woman of the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp and babies. The IDF spokesman told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that the number of casualties there since the beginning of the unrest is about 300.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Pamphlet No 11 Distributed

TA211535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Pamphlet No 11 was distributed this afternoon in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, calling on the inhabitants to increase their violence against Jewish settlers and IDF soldiers. The pamphlet also calls on Gaza Strip students to cut their studies by 2 hours on 24 March. On that day, the pamphlet demands that students from Judaea and Samaria enter school and hold classes, by force if necessary. The pamphlet also refers to other dates on which the inhabitants of the territories should hold symbolic funerals, a struggle against the municipalities and the appointed local councils, and general strikes.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the disturbances in the Gaza Strip grew worse in the afternoon, especially in Gaza city. Security forces imposed a curfew on the Shabura Junction area in Rafah after riots broke out there this morning, during which one of the rioters was shot dead by IDF fire.

W. Bank Resident Killed

TA182113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2100 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] An Arab resident was killed and four were slightly wounded in Judaea and Samaria by IDF soldiers' fire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a riot took place at the 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' near Nabulus, where a camp resident attacked a soldier. The soldier shot at him in order to extricate himself. The attacker was critically wounded and later died of his wounds. Arab residents claimed the man died because medical aid arrived late. The IDF spokesman says the wounded received rapid treatment by a military physician.

Two residents were slightly wounded by IDF soldiers' fire in the (Kaddura) refugee camp in Ramallah. Another was slightly wounded at the Al-Fari'ah refugee camp, and still another near Nabulus' casbah.

Curfew Imposed in Gaza Areas

TA191031 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The security forces imposed a curfew on the Al-Shati' refugee camp and the Sabra neighborhood in Gaza early this morning. The curfew was imposed following disturbances after prayers yesterday. Our correspondent Moti Amir has learned that last night several detentions were made in the Sabra neighborhood as well as in the Al-Shati' refugee camp.

19 Shot in Gaza Strip 18 Mar

TA201133 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] The security forces dispersed a riot in the southern end of the Gaza Strip at the Shabura junction near Rafah. The Gaza Strip was otherwise quiet. Many workers left for work in Israel. Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that an investigation into incidents after prayers last Friday [18 March] shows that 19 inhabitants of Gaza's Sabra neighborhood and the Al-Shati' refugee camp suffered gunshot wounds; one died of his injuries.

The curfew on Al-Shati' continues. Security forces arrested 30 inhabitants of Sabra and Al-Shati' Saturday night on suspicion of hostile terrorist activities and incitement.

1 Dead in Gaza Following Riots

TA211137 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Excerpts] In the Gaza Strip, an Arab was killed in the town of Rafah in the wake of violent disturbances this morning. The army says it is checking the circumstances of the death. Slogans scrawled throughout the Gaza Strip called for attacks on soldiers and Israeli civilians today, marking the 20th anniversary of the confrontation between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians in the Jordanian town of Al-Karamah. In the Gaza Strip is our reporter Steve Rodan:

The army is on alert in the Gaza Strip today. The security measures began at the Erez junction at the entrance to the Gaza Strip. Soldiers are literally taking apart Gaza vehicles coming from Israel. Automobiles and trucks bearing the blue license plates of Judaea and Samaria are banned from entering the area. Inside the Gaza Strip, soldiers are stationed at every major intersection, and they are all on alert. [passage omitted]

By noon the trouble began. A riot broke out in Rafah, the army arrived, and there is a report of one person being brought dead on arrival at a nearby hospital. The army says it is checking the report. Palestinian sources say the victim was 21 years old and was declared dead at Al-Nasir Hospital. Relatives then snatched the victim's body from the hospital. Otherwise, military sources say, the morning was marked by relative quiet in the Gaza Strip with occasional incidents of stone throwing and tire burning. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 21 March adds: "In Judaea and Samaria, the commercial strike continues almost in full today to mark Al-Karamah Day, in keeping with the call of PLO agitators, yet many laborers from various sites throughout the territories left for work today. In certain places, such as the Balatah refugee camp, almost all laborers left for work."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 21 March in a report by Bradley Burston on page 1 notes that "telephone service in the Al-Shati' refugee camp and in the Sabra neighbourhood here was cut off yesterday, after violent rioting broke out in both areas, following mosque services last Friday."]

Molotov Cocktail in Negev

TA190824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was hurled at a Red Star of David ambulance near the Bedouin village (Hura) in the Negev. The ambulance was on its way from 'Arad to Beersheba. There were no injuries in the incident. Five Bedouin youths suspected of carrying out the attack were detained. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch notes that this is the second time within the last 3 days that a Molotov cocktail has been thrown in the Negev.

Bomb Thrown Near Sharon's House

TA191721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown this evening at a grocery store on Hagay Street in the Old City of Jerusalem, near Ari'el Sharon's house. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. Our police affairs minister Moshe Nussbaum reports that six Arab residents who were present at the site were picked up for interrogation.

Palestinian Reporter Detained

TA191319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Last night the IDF detained several individuals in the Tulkarm area. The detainees include a reporter of the Palestinian press office, 'Adnan Damiri, who had been detained before for security offenses while he was the head of the students union at Al-Najah University. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF spokesman refused to comment.

The offices of the construction workers association in Tulkarm were closed down last night for 2 years by order of the commander of the Central Command. Military sources said the place served as a center of incitement and a cover for subversive activity.

Woman Sentenced for Stabbing

TA201400 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] An Arab woman, a resident of the village of Al-Ram, who tried to stab a Border Police officer near the Damascus Gate of the Old City on Yom Kippur's eve, was sentenced to 9 months in prison. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports that the verdict stated the woman is a border case mentally, but could

still face a trial. Justice Yafa Hecht ruled that a suspended sentence, which was hanging over the defendant's head, will not be applied since it was issued by a military court.

Two Injured Near Rafah

TA201527 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Two rioters were slightly wounded by IDF soldiers' fire at the Shabura Junction near Rafah. The security forces tried to disperse the riot with rubber bullets and tear gas, and when this was to no avail and after firing warning shots, they fired at the rioters.

Arab Charged With Terrorism

TA201721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] A resident of Nazareth was brought before the Haifa magistrate court on charges of membership in a hostile organization and of accepting tasks involving terrorist acts against Israeli population concentrations 4 years ago. He was remanded in custody for another 7 days.

The Haifa court accepted the state request and ordered the case of the suspect, 'Atif Muhammad Zaydani, to be transferred to a military court, according to emergency defense regulations.

Houses Demolished in Samaria

TA201824 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] The security forces today tore down the houses of three Silat al-Harithiyah villagers who are suspected of having thrown Molotov cocktails at IDF soldiers. Four illegally built houses were also demolished.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the security forces destroyed another two houses in the village of Al-Yamun.

West Bank Arab Youth Dies

TA202119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] An Arab youth, age 29, from the village of Nazlat' Isa in the territories, has died in the Hilel Yafe Hospital in Hadera today. He was wounded 5 days ago by IDF soldiers' fire in the course of a riot. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. The IDF spokesman denied claims by residents of the village that the youth was wounded by shots fired from a helicopter.

Youths Arrested in Umm al-Fahm

TA181351 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] A group of youths who are suspected of possessing explosives that were collected in an IDF's training area has been uncovered in Umm al-Fahm in the Triangle. Two of them who are suspected of possessing arms, hoisting PLO flags, and painting hostile slogans, were released today on bail at the Haifa magistrate's court, which also allowed the publication of this story. It was reported that the security forces are trying to find a cache of explosives and bombs collected by two of the group's members. The ITIM correspondent reports that there is at least one other detainee in connection with this affair.

In another hearing at this Haifa court, the detention of two Israeli Arabs who are suspected of having joined the PLO during their stay in Europe has been extended. They are Muhammad Anis Ghabariyah of Umm al-Fahm and 'Atif Muhammad Zaydan of Nazareth, who managed a pub in Spain. It was reported that there is no connection between the two affairs. Ghabariyah is said to have received money from his operators in Germany in order to purchase arms for the perpetration of terrorist acts in Israel. He is also said to have purchased the arms, although they have not been located yet.

Shaykh Fadallah Views Situation, Issues

Comments on Higgins Kidnapping

JN202143 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 19 Mar 88 p 24

[Interview with Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Ghassan Bayram—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [AL-MUSTAQBAL] The Lebanese arena has recently been preoccupied with the kidnapping of the U.S. officer William Higgins, commander of the armistice observers team. Apart from the likelihood of a military confrontation between the Amal Movement and Hizballah over Amal's attempt to release the officer, do you think there is a basis for the kidnapping of the officer?

[Fadlallah] (As if not intending to talk about Amal's role in the issue of the officer and the danger of a confrontation between Amal and Hizballah) Kidnapping is a political rather than a security issue. I think it is necessary to discuss the U.S. presence in international institutions. According to sensitive information we have received, we fear that the superpowers may seek to use their presence in international institutions to serve their own political and intelligence purposes, rather than the purpose of these institutions. This is perhaps what prompted the Soviet Union to object to the presence of a U.S. contingent within the international forces in southern Lebanon, based on the belief that the U.S. force will serve U.S., and not international, interests.

If we are to be more specific, the position held by this U.S. officer—a military and intelligence-gathering position which, according to information given to WASHINGTON POST by some officers of the international force, was collecting information about fundamentalist Muslims—is not compatible with his post in the committee of international observors. Therefore, the issue of the U.S. move for a security project may be part of the security arrangements in the south. Such a project requires some pressure on the growing existence of the so-called Islamic fundamentalism.

The fundamentalists originally objected to the existence of Israel; now they object to security arrangements in Lebanon on the basis of confronting the Israeli plan in the south as to whether or not it concerns Lahd's army or the Israeli presence. If we comprehend this, we might consider the kidnapping as part of the struggle against U.S. policy in the region. The kidnapping may, therefore, abort more than one scheme. It is also a hint that U.S. calculations cannot rely on many local forces. This may explain the nervous and fabricated reactions on the U.S., international institution, and Lebanese levels. These leaders always volunteer to talk about human situations and spiritual values, which are the U.S. trademark when it comes to U.S., Jewish, or Israeli individuals. However, they do not talk about these rights when it comes to individuals of the Third World.

We are not going to discuss this by indulging in the legal and moral implications of the kidnapping; this will only lead us to lengthy and complicated discussions on the various security and political aspects of the struggle. We want to discuss the kidnapping within the context of the struggle's moving in large arenas. It will be difficult to attach to some of the vocabularies of these aspects of the struggle a moral meaning as part of the morality of the major objectives, that a nation needs to defend against those who want to defeat them. We do not want to justify or condemn the kidnapping. However, what we say, we say to all parties on the political scene: Be realistic in understanding the game, exactly like the Americans, who move according to reality when you talk about political realism. The reality says: Look at what you can do to confront pressure and change every legitimate thing in the face of the mountain that surrounds you to crush your very presence.

Discusses Resolutions, UNIFIL

NC210642 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the situation in Lebanon demands a solution, not extremism. He called for consideration of the Israeli issue with a long-term mentality. He also called for a debate on the UN resolutions, which should not be fought over but studied politically. He said: We do not want to cause any problem for the UN forces. The UNIFIL forces do not represent anything, and if they stay we will not protest against them. They are the victims of the decision to deploy them.

Further on Visit by Irish Defense Minister

Concludes Visit 19 Mar

NC191325 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Prior to his departure from Beirut at 1300 today, the Irish defense minister said that his talks with various Lebanese officials have made him optimistic and more convinced that the Lebanese crisis will soon be solved. The Irish minister expressed his government's regret at attacks on the Irish contingent in the south. He expressed hope that every means of support will be given to the UN forces.

Views Fate of Irish Hostage

NC200805 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Irish Minister (Vincent Brady) has left Beirut after a visit, during which he inspected the UNIFIL's Irish contingent and met with a number of officials. Prior to

his departure, he said he had conveyed to Lebanese officials his government's views on and support for UN resolutions, which state that an international conference must be held to resolve the region's crisis and to establish peace in the region.

He expressed optimistism that a solution to the Lebanese problem will soon be found.

Commenting on the fate of Irish hostage Brian Keenan, (Brady) said he had sought help and information about his conditions. He noted that contacts are being made with Syria and Iran at various levels to secure the release of the hostage, who was kidnapped about 2 years ago from the American University, where he was working. No party has claimed responsibility for his abduction.

Ivorian Ambassador Leaves After Embassy Closure

NC211102 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] The Ivory Coast's ambassador and embassy first counselor permanently left Beirut today following their country's decision to close its embassy in Lebanon.

Junblatt Nominates Al-Ashqar for President

NC201103 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt held a news conference that ended a short time ago. At the news conference Junblatt announced the nomination of PSP Political Bureau member Antoine al-Ashqar for president.

Junblatt said: We regard this occasion today as very special and very important. It is an opportunity to announce the nomination of Antoine al-Ashqar for president. We believe that his nomination comes during momentous and delicate circumstances in Lebanon's history. Comrade Antoine al-Ashqar is well-known for his efforts within the PSP. We believe that the PSP and the nationalist parties have the right to nominate an Arab, a struggling party member. This nomination is a gesture acknowledging Comrade al-Ashqar's endeavors within the PSP ranks. We hope that all the nationalist forces will support this nomination, and that together we will wage the nationalist popular battle. This battle must be divorced from the settlements of Shultz, Murphy, and Philip Habib, who, as you know, has wrecked Lebanon, and from other sinister missives which come to us from overseas places, such as Washington or other Western capitals. These have only caused us destruction and ruin.

Antoine al-Ashqar will present his political program, which is based on the nationalist movement's interim program, this coming Sunday. God willing, we will wage this great battle in a united manner.

Birri Rejects Al-Jumayyil's Proposals

NC181549 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has rejected Amin al-Jumayyil's new proposals on power sharing and abolition of sectarianism. In a statement he made this afternoon, he said: Discussion now centers on two fundamental points—abolition of political sectarianism and power sharing. Power sharing is required, but not only within the Council of Ministers. We also want power sharing during the interim period.

Birri said: The new proposals which we have received offer nothing new on the level of power sharing. It is known that he who appoints and dismisses [ministers] is the decision-maker. Therefore, we cannot accept such imaginary power sharing.

The previous paper included impossible conditions regarding the abolition of sectarianism, such as the provision that this abolition needs the approval of 85 percent of the votes of the Chamber of Deputies. Now we see clouds, fog, and ambiguity upon ambiguity, to the extent that we no longer understand anything that is being proposed regarding this matter.

We reverted to the English text of this paper, and could not figure out which text was the original. The English text calls for setting up a committee, but without any time frame. As it is known, in Lebanon, the referral of a matter to a committee means its burial. However, we insist on achieving detente before the presidential elections. Detente is the only candidate that remains, even if the date of the elections arrives. It is not important for a person to reach the presidential office. What is important is that Lebanon should be saved, and this cannot be achieved without detente.

Birri said: Prevarication and procrastination do not help. What is required is straightforwardness. What is required is the abolition of political sectarianism to create justice among the citizens. If there is need for political sectarianism to continue during a transitional period, then at least we should have equality among the communities.

Birri Criticizes Iranian 'Interference'

NC181601 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 18 (AFP)—The leader of Lebanon's mainstream Shi'ite Moslem grouping has spoken out against Iranian "interference," militia sources said here Friday.

Nabih Birri, head of the Amal militia, said Thursday that although his organisation sought "privileged and strategic ties with Iran," contacts should be developed through Amal's leadership and not individual members, which amounted to "interference in our affairs."

Mr. Birri was speaking at a Central Committee meeting in Beirut where members confirmed the recent dismissal of two senior Amal officials linked to pro-Iranian fundamentalist groups.

Mustafa Dirani and Shaykh Adib Haydar, in line with the rival Shi'ite grouping Hizballah, had voiced approval of the February 17 kidnapping in South Lebanon of Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, a U.S. military observer serving with the United Nations.

The kidnapping, which took place in a region under Amal control, was seen as a challenge to the Syrian-backed militia.

"We will not allow the security of South Lebanon to be brought into question," Mr. Birri was quoted as saying at the meeting. He also stressed his group's ties with Syria, which he noted was "an Arab country, like Lebanon." [passage omitted]

Amal Central Council Issues Political Document

NC181824 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Following today's meeting, the Amal Movement's Central Council today issued a political document that emphasized the movement's position. This document calls for national accord prior to the presidential elections to facilitate unity, liberation, justice, development, and peace; for a concrete change in the system; and for the abolishment of political sectarianism on the basis of national accord. The document maintains that a national Lebanon [Lubnan al-watani] is a capable and just Lebanon in which decisionmaking on every matter is equally and fully shared by all.

The document also emphasized the Arab national political line drawn by Imam Musa al-Sadr. It noted that the movement is Islamic in context, and is not based on a closed religious posture designed to confront other closed religious postures but on the ability of Islam to understand others, conduct dialogues, and interact.

The document also focused on the distinguished relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran, maintaining that the Amal Movement is part of the Islamic revolution led by Imam Khomeyni. It noted that the movement is interested in prompting the regime in Lebanon to establish distinguished relations with Syria relations that do not just serve Syrian interests, but on the basis of respect for the common interests of each state and each country's respect for the sovereignty of the other.

Israeli Boats Fire on Southern Coastal Town

NC190604 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Amal Movement sources in the south said that Israeli military boats were sighted off the coast between Al-Awwali and Al-Naqurah last night. The Israeli forces illuminated the coast near the town of Al-Mansuri in the South, and the two military boats fired in that direction. In western Al-Biqa', meanwhile, it was learned that the town of Maydun came under artillery shelling from the border strip yesterday evening.

'Large-Scale Attacks' Launched Against Israelis

NC210903 Paris AFP in English 0847 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, March 21 (AFP)—Unidentified guerrilla groups in southern Lebanon launched large-scale attacks against six Israeli Army positions and the South Lebanese Army (SLA) in a pre-dawn offensive Monday, Lebanese police sources said.

The four-hour assault targeted six forward positions along the northernmost edge of Israel's "security belt" within the Lebanese borders, they added. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

Previously, credit for the cross-border attacks has been claimed by Palestinian commando groups, Shi'ite militiamen and various Lebanese resistance organizations.

Southern Positions Attacked

NC211017 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that early this morning resistance fighters carried out a series of attacks against positions jointly held by the Israeli occupation forces and their agents. Clashes involving the use of various types of weapons took place. No reports are available yet about the results of these attacks.

Resistance Mines Destroy Israeli Armored Car

NC190830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The resistance has announced that one of its groups operating in the occupied border strip planted mines on the road leading to the Tallat Bra'shit position at midnight last night. The mines went off under an Israeli enemy armored car, destroying it and killing or wounding its crew.

9 February Group Claims Attack on Syrian Post

NC191102 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi Unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for attacking a Syrian occupation post in the Central Building in the Al-Tabbanah area of Tripoli with hand grenades and machineguns at approximately 0030 hours today. According to a spokesman for the organization, who contacted our radio at noon today, the attack resulted in three Syrian occupation soldiers being wounded.

PSP Raids Palestinian Posts in Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC191323 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Security sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that PSP groups began a campaign of raids against Palestinian positions in Iqlim al-Kharrub yesterday, particularly in the coastal and central sector areas. There were reports of some arrests.

Israel Warned About Threats to Saudi Arabia

JN211133 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] An official source has stated the following:

There have been successive Israeli statements in the past 2 days about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia possessing medium-range surface-to-surface missiles and threatening to strike at these missiles.

These statements have exposed the Israeli enemy's propensity for aggression and its aim of imposing domination and hegemony over the region and over the entire Arab nation.

In reply to these statements Syria declares that it is elementary that aggression against the sister Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be considered as aggression against Syria with the consequent shouldering of the full pan-Arab responsibilities for confronting the aggression.

Al-Shar' Returns Home, Views Committee Tour

JN201830 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1738 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening at the end of a tour by the Arab ministerial committee entrusted by the Arab League Council with backing the uprising and gaining further support for it in the international arena. The Arab committee successively visited Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and China, which are permanent Security Council member states.

Answering a question by a SANA editor on the outcome of the Arab ministerial committee's tour, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said: Syria joined the Arab committee in its tour of Paris, Moscow, and Beijing. Syria had no desire to join the committee in its visit to London due to the state of diplomatic relations between Syria and Britain. Al-Shar' added:

The most prominent matter on this tour was that all its international contacts reflected the unified Arab stand based on justice, international legality, and the Arab summit resolutions regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arabs' central cause, the Palestine question. During these contacts and talks, there was explanation of the importance of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and its positive results in the Arab and international arenas. Moreover, emphasis was laid on excluding any attempts to circumvent or contain this uprising.

There was also discussion on the components and elements of a just and comprehensive solution in the region. Such a solution should be based on Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and ensuring the Palestinian Arab people's national rights within the context of an international conference enjoying full powers and attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO and the five permanent Security Council member states.

Replying to a question on the stands of the states visited by the committee in light of these contacts, Al-Shar' said: Arab and French views were close. The French side stressed that the solution should be comprehensive and emphasized the need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. It also stressed the need for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and for convening an effective international conference under UN auspices.

Al-Shar' added: In Britain, we had an impression from the Arab committee that visited it that Arab and British views were different and that the British side did not show enough seriousness in listening to the Arab viewpoint because this side still follows the U.S. approach despite the fact that British public opinion is affected by the repressive Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Shar' said: In Moscow and Beijing, the Arab ministerial committee sensed the solidarity of the Soviet and Chinese peoples with the just struggle the Arab people are waging to liberate their occupied territories and regain their usurped rights. Moreover, the Soviet and Chinese friends voiced their support for the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and their firm condemnation of the repressive Israeli practices. There was agreement on the components and requirements of a just and comprehensive solution in the region.

The Soviet and Chinese leaderships promised serious action to achieve Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and secure the Palestinian Arab people's national rights within the context of an effective international conference with powers held under UN auspices.

Concluding his statement, the foreign minister said: The Arab ministerial committee will continue its contacts with the remaining UN Security Council member states and regional and international organizations and bodies to continue explaining the importance of the popular uprising in the occupied territories and gain further international support for it.

Talas Receives Soviet Army General 19 Mar

JN191904 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Major General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received at noon today a Soviet military delegation led by Gen Pikalov,

Chemical Troops chief. They explored avenues to reinforce cooperation between the friendly armies to enhance the combat potential of the Syrian Armed Forces and their steadfastness in the face of Zionist and imperialist challenges.

Al-Ahmar Receives DPRK Official 19 Mar

JN191412 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received Comrade (Li So-hon), rector of the Kim Il-song Institute—the first party school in the DPRK—and his delegation. The DPRK ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

They discussed developing relations and cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Workers Party of Korea [WPK]. They also talked about the role of party schools in educating and enlightening the masses. Comrade al-Ahmar said culture cadre education is playing an increasingly important role in the lives of party members and the masses in general. Al-Ahmar then discussed Arab developments, with particular reference to the Palestinian uprising against the Zionist occupiers, which he noted is mounting despite all enemy attempts to contain and abort it. The uprising, Al-Ahmar added, has shown that Arab struggle to liberate the occupied land and achieve Palestinian repatriation and self-determination leading to an independent state is an ongoing process.

Meanwhile, Comrade (Li So-hon) has emphasized the supportive attitude of the WPK under General Secretary Kim Il-song toward Arab struggle and Syria's steadfastness against imperialist-Zionist aggressive plans. He praised Syria's nationalist, progressive stand led by comrade struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The DPRK official said he was positively impressed by Syria's achievements since the glorious March revolution.

Afghanistan

Presidential Decree on National Elections

LD192129 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The President's Office reports that esteemed President Najibullah has issued decree No 244 dated 28 Hout [19 March] in accordance with Articles 12, 13, and 14 on elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan and the formation of constituencies for the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The decree of the president of Afghanistan on holding elections and forming constituencies for the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with the statute on the National Assembly elections of the Republic of Afghanistan is as follows:

Article 1: The elections to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan will be held simultaneously throughout the country from 17-26 Hamal 1367 [6-15 April 1988].

Article 2: A total of 29 constituencies will be set up in Afghanistan for the election of representatives and 62 constituencies will be set up for the election of senators. The areas and boundaries of these constituencies are confirmed in accordance with annex Nos 2 and 3.

Article 3: If the opposition along with the people in various constituencies [words indistinct] in the election, the election of a senator or a representative will reserved for the opposition for the future.

Article 4: The Executive Committees of the councils of the provinces, of Kabul city, and of the major district of Khowst are obligated to set up ballot centers in every constituency. Similarly, provincial commissions, constituency commissions, and the commissions of ballot centers for the election of representatives and for senators to the National Assembly are to be set up separately.

Article 5: The Electoral Central Commission is obligated to affirm the electoral documents and to ensure their timely distribution to the constituencies.

Article 6: The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan is responsible for providing the Electoral Central Commission with the necessary financial, (?material), and technical facilities to carry out the elections.

Article 7: In order to ensure the elections, the decisions of the Electoral Central Commission and other election commissions should be carried out unconditionally by the state bodies and by the relevant officials.

Article 8: The Executive Committees of the provincial councils and their equivalant units should elect senators from among the members of these councils and send the list of names within 1 week to the Electoral Central Commission.

Article 9: The National Front and the social organizations attached to it, and the political parties should present to me a list of their candidates to the Senate who may be appointed the deputy of the president, including the name of the candidate, father's name, date of birth, party membership, nationality, level of education, and work experience.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

New Election Law Outlined

LD200644 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 19, BAKHTAR—The periodical session of the Revolutionary Council of the Republic of Afghanistan unanimously approved on March 18 the draft of the law on elections to the National Assembly of Afghanistan in eight chapters and fifty eight articles. The president of the Republic of Afghanistan signed the law on elections to the National Assembly.

According to the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan the National Assembly consists of two houses—House of Representatives and the Senate. Candidates of appointed senators are to be introduced by National Front, political parties and the social organisations to the president.

According to the newly-approved law, deputies and senators will be elected for five years. The elections of deputies and senators to the National Assembly of Afghanistan will take place in secret. The expenditures for holding elections to the National Assembly of the Republic are paid by the state.

All Afghan citizens who have completed age 18 are eligible to vote with the exception of mad persons or the ones who are in prison on charges of committing an offense. Any Afghan citizen with 20 years of age can be elected as deputy and those with 30 years of age can be elected as senator, the law says.

Nationality, race, language, religious, beliefs, political ideas, education, occupation, wealth, social status and place of residence cannot affect the electoral rights of the Afghan citizens. The Central Commission on Elections to National Assembly will consist of president, six deputy-presidents, secretary and 37 members.

The candidates of National Assembly, the new law stipulates, are introduced by National Front and its concerned organisations, political parties and the social organisations outside the National Front. The election term is five years.

As per the provisions of the new law, the elections of deputies and senators to National Assembly will be held in all territories of Afghanistan in five to ten days. Voting goes on from seven in the morning to seven in the evening. The voting takes place under the supervision of the Commission on Elections. A voting box with specific signs will be determined for every candidates to the National Assembly in the voting centre.

The president sends to the Central Commission on Elections the list of the senators appointed by the councils of provinces and administration units equivalent to the councils in 24 hours.

The general results of elections all over the country and the list of the members of National Council will be published by the Central Commission on Elections in mass media in seven days after the completion of elections, the newly-approved law on elections to the National Assembly stipulates.

Najibullah Delivers New Year Message

LD192213 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Muslim New Year message of congratulations from President Najibullah—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, Muslim people of Afghanistan, fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters:

On this sacred day, the day of the arrival of the new year, please accept our sincere and cordial best wishes for the health, prosperity, and welfare of each family, for the happiness, prosperity, and tranquillity of each home. Let the new year bring with it prosperity, nationwide peace, and the end of war and bloodshed.

I address you with words of congratulations and best wishes during a sensitive and difficult period for our country. Last year was a year in which we boldly searched for profound thoughts concerning the fate of our fatherland, a year of self-sacrificing struggle, and a year for the first joyful fruits of national reconciliation. Having endured the pain and sorrow of 9 years of war, our wise and peace-loving people have made a determined choice. We have planted the young trees of national reconciliation in our suffering country. The humane and Islamic ideas of the new policy have made their way, despite the obstacles created, into the hearts of our people, those who have left the country, and those who acted against their brothers with arms in hand. The thoughts of national reconciliation have won the interest and support of the progressive and peace-loving forces of our planet and have influenced the hearts of those who previously looked at us not only with lack of understanding but with obvious indignation and hostility.

Last year was a turning point in the destiny of 1 million of our compatriots. The voice of invitation and compromise which was raised from Kabul inspired great force—the peace-creating initiative by the people of Afghanistan. As a result of common sense, and the warm hearts and powerful hands of our people, the young trees of peace have been planted. The garden of peace and friendship has flourished and continues to flourish in the soil of Afghanistan. Those trees watered with the tears of widows have brought forth their first valuable fruits.

These fruits are the 120,000 emigrants who have returned home, the liberated villages, the cultivated lands, the places which have been revived, and those children who were born outside the homeland and who are now studying in the schools of their homeland. These fruits include the fathers and mothers who breathe the air of their country's deserts and mountains. These fruits are the 40,000 representatives of the armed opposition who have accepted the invitation to peace. A large number of them, who exchanged weapons for pickaxes or have taken up the plow, have returned to the noble work of peasantry. Others have embarked on the defense of the security and tranquillity of their villages and cities. The results of the national reconciliation are the peace regions, the peace provinces, and the peace villages, districts, and sub-districts. Every fourth compatriot lives in a peace region. A year ago, we could not even conceive this.

We are confident that in the New Year our free, independent, and proud country, Afghanistan, will be turned into a country of peace. The fruits of the orchard of reconciliation are the decisive approval of the principles of a multiparty system and the coalition in the political life of the country, the opinion poll about the new constitution and its unanimous approval in the Grand Assembly, and the election of the president. These fruits include the serious attention paid by the government to the interests of the small and medium landowners in order to improve their living and work conditions. This involves private investors, tradesmen, and businessmen, and revives the development of our multisided national economy.

The fruits of the orchard of peace are the increasing social assistance to the subjects of Afghanistan who nurture the culture of our fatherland. They are the nationwide conference of the PDPA, which has analyzed and studied the activities of the party during the last 5 years with honesty and in a spirit of self-criticism, and which discussed a reasonable and exact program for peace and national compromise.

The orchard of reconciliation has brought to the people of Afghanistan valuable and desired fruits such as the Geneva talks, which should provide the political normalization of the situation around the country. We believe in common sense and peaceful thoughts, despite the unconstructive stance taken by the Pakistani side and its efforts to deadlock the negotiations.

On this New Year's eve, we address the fraternal and religious people of Pakistan, with respect and hope and a belief in their goodwill and their efforts toward peace, mutual understanding, and goodneighborliness. We hope the Geneva talks will be concluded successfully.

Therefore, the paths for foreign intervention by those who believe they can impose their will on the people of Afghanistan by armed force will be closed.

The political solution to the situation around Afghanistan will meet the interests of neighboring countries and their peoples, and the interests of peace and the normalization of situation in the region and all over the world.

Today the whole world is looking at our people and our homeland. Let the proud Afghan nation become the first country to play an important historical role aimed at the political settlement of regional conflicts. The iron will of the people of Afghanistan, who thirst for peace and tranquillity, the wise political initiatives, as well as the serious stance mentioned in the statements by the leaderships of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and the vast support of progressive circles of the world, will guarantee this.

You notice the fruits of the orchard of peace everywhere. You feel these fruits in your daily life. The number of people who shoot guns has been reduced, and the voice of peace echoes louder in the hearts of our compatriots.

Dear and faithful compatriots, God has endowed us with this beautiful and prosperous world and the great blessings of a peaceful and creative life. Our mission is not only to safeguard it but also to increase these blessings. We have been bequeathed gigantic mountains, green valleys, clean water, orchards, fragrant flowers. No one has the right to destroy them. The prosperity and existence of human beings is feasible only under conditions of peace. This is the mission of the prophets and the present generation.

The implementation and establishment of peace in our land is feasible only through hard work, struggle, and patience. What does every Afghan want for 1988? Every Afghan wants 1988 to be the year of peace, the year of clear skies over the country, the year of a unified people, the year of individual responsibility, and the year of struggle for the fate of our country and people. It is to be the year for the implementation of the new constitution of the country and the year for broad democratic elections to the National Assembly.

It is to be the year for the settlement of the situation around our country and the cessation of interference in our internal affairs. It is to be the year of the return of the thousands of refugees who live in camps in Pakistan and Iran to their relatives and friends. It is to be the year of collective and constructive work and lofty gains for building our beloved country. It is to be the year of strengthening of defensive power of the country, raising the combat power of our valorous Armed Forces, whose duty is to defend the peace, security, and tranquillity of the people of Afghanistan.

It is to be the year of the withdrawal of the Soviet Union's internationalist sons, who are our great and tested friends in the task of training their Afghan friends. With unlimited gratitude we will see off our comrades and friends of the trenches. The internationalist troops withdraw, but the friendship with our great northern neighbor will last forever. It is to be the year of the consolidation of sovereignty, freedom, independence, positive neutrality, and nonalignment of Afghanistan, the year of the overall development of friendship with all countries and all peoples of the world.

Dear friends, I want to offer New Year's congratulations once again to all dear compatriots, to the fraternal Pashtun and Baluch people, to the Muslim and fraternal people of Pakistan and Iran, and to all Muslims of the world.

Let the New Year be a year of friendship and goodneighborliness, a year of social progress, of prosperity, of total success in attaining the humanitarian goals of national reconciliation, of the happiness of mothers and children, and the year of implementing the noble hopes of our people.

Let the New Year remove obstacles in the way of those who are thirsting to return to the bosom of the country.

Let God guide the misled, who still commit the great sin of refuting national reconciliation and attempting fratricide.

Let the New Year create in your hearts the confidence that we Afghans ourselves can determine our fate, maintain peace, and achieve the prosperity and construction of our fraternal land.

That is how 1988 will be. The determination and wisdom of our people will make it so. And this year—the year of the 10th anniversary of the revolution—will be such.

I congratulate you, dear compatriots, on the new year. Happy new year. Peace for Afghanistan. Peace for every household. Success comes from God.

Pakistani Envoy Summoned Over Border Incident

LD191724 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry at 1130 today where the following point was made to him:

The Pakistani authorities, in continuation of their unfounded accusations, have recently claimed that Afghan aircraft violated the airspace of the (Kargistab) and (Khamapost) regions in northern Waziristan on 21 February, and the Nawa region, Mohmand Agency, on 23 February.

After conducting an investigation, the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan have deemed these claims by the Pakistani authorities as unfounded and untruthful. In resolutely rejecting them, the Afghan authorities ask the responsible authorities in Pakistan to refrain from such unfounded accusations, which exacerbate the situation along the border.

Mujahidin Capture Town Near Qandahar

BK201152 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 20 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas have captured a town near Afghanistan's second largest city of Qandahar after three days of heavy fighting, rebel sources said here Sunday.

Several guerrilla groups Wednesday launched a coordinated attack on Panjwai town, some 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) west of Qandahar, inflicting heavy damage and casualties, a spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami group led by Muhammed Yunis Khalis said.

The capture of the town Friday was part of a wider plan to break Kabul's hold on and around Qandahar in southern Afghanistan, the spokesman said, adding that the rebels had overrun eight military outposts Tuesday when some 100 Afghan soldiers defected.

The guerrillas captured eight tanks, one military truck, 10 heavy artillery pieces, a wireless set and some rifles during the three days of fighting, he said.

The attack spread panic among the Afghan troops who either surrendered or fled, setting fire to their bunkers, he said.

Five mujahidin were killed and five seriously wounded, he said, adding that enemy casualties were much higher. The spokesman could not give exact figures.

Another source confirmed that Panjwai had been taken and said 20 Afghan troops had been killed.

Western diplomats and travelers said last week that there had been sporadic clashes in the area for several weeks and that Kabul's hold on Qandahar was becoming unsure.

Factional feuds in the ruling Communist Party and differences between the Army and local militia commander—a former guerrilla leader, Ismatullah Muslim—had allowed the rebels to strengthen their position around the city, they said.

India

Heavy Water Plant Closed After Blast, Fire

BK181558 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] The heavy water plant in Baroda was shut down this afternoon following an explosion and a fire. Official sources said the explosion followed a leakage in the ammonia plant of the project. The fire was controlled in an hour. No casualty of radiation hazard has been reported.

Satellite Sends First Photographic Image

BK200935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Text] The Indian remote sensing satellite, IRS-1A, which was put into orbit on Thursday [17 March], is moving toward its allotted slot in space. Indian Space Research Organization sources in Bangalore said today the 975 kg satellite, which is receiving its electrical energy from solar panels, has been successfully deployed into a sun-synchronous orbit.

The satellite, which is in fine shape, has beamed back the first photographic image covering a strip of land extending from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari.

Transportation Employees Strike; 5,000 Arrested

BK211018 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 21 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, March 21 (AFP)—Police arrested some 5,000 striking busmen attempting to march on Parliament here Monday to press demands for higher wages and better working conditions, witnesses said.

The strikers from India's largest city bus service were arrested on charges of breaking orders banning public assemblies in the capital, police said. Seventeen others were arrested on rioting charges for smashing the windows of private buses, a police spokesman said. Police took away the demonstrators in lorries and other private transport vehicles, witnesses said.

Some 43,000 DTC [Delhi Transport Corporation] employees, including 23,000 drivers and conductors, pulled the DTC's entire fleet of 4,187 buses off the roads Thursday in an indefinite work-stoppage to demand better pay and working conditions, crippling the city's transport.

Management has fired 2,500 workers after declaring the strike illegal.

About 20,000 police are guarding DTC garages and patrolling streets to prevent violence and to ensure taxis do not exploit the strike and overcharge.

Gurkhas Extend Darjeeling Strike 20 Days

BK201413 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 20 (AFP)—Gurkha militants extended a 40-day general strike by another 20 days Sunday and stepped up their violent campaign for a separate homeland in northeastern India, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

PTI said Gurkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) activists put up posters in the Himalayan District's Kalimpong town, extending their 40-day general strike in the the town by another 20 days.

Security Forces stepped up patrols in Darjeeling, in the northern tip of communist-ruled West Bengal State, after the GNLF posters appeared, PTI quoted local Police Chief R.K. Handa as saying. But the women's wing of the GNLF Sunday challenged the strike extension and put up posters calling on people to defy the decision, PTI said.

Government property worth three million dollars has been damaged and some 30 people have been killed since February 10 when the GNLF launched its general strike to protest what it described as a police campaign of genocide against Gurkhas.

Bengal State Chief Minister Jyoti Basu has rejected the GNLF accusations. [passage omitted]

Sikhs To Urge High Priest To Condemn Killings

BK191642 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Representatives of Sikh organizations in Maharashtra have decided to take a delegation to the high priest of Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] to urge him to condemn the killings of innocent persons by terrorists in Punjab. This was announced by the chief of local gurdwaras [Sikh temples] at a news conference in Bombay today.

Gandhi Says Peace Moves in Punjab Fail

BK191435 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] The Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that peace moves by his government to end unrest in Punjab have been meeting with a negative response. Mr Gandhi was speaking in response to reports of at least 11 new killings in Punjab by Sikh extremists. This report is from Delhi by Mark Tully.

[Begin recording] Five of those killed were members of one Sikh family. They were shot at night in their village near Amritsar. Four other people were killed in Amritsar District and two in the neighboring Jullundur District. The Sikh extremists have recently attacked whole families several times. Sikhs are also increasingly becoming their targets. One of the reasons for this is that the extremists want to take revenge against those they believe are police informers. The extremists have continued their attacks in spite of the latest peace initiative by the government. More than 150 people have died in violence in the Punjab this month alone.

Many observers believe that this unusually high level of violence, even for the Sikh extremists, is designed to foil the peace initiative. That also appears to be the prime minister's view. He said to journalists this morning whenever a positive step is taken to solve the problem in Punjab, it is met with a negative response. And that is what we are seeing today. However, the prime minister went on to say that he hoped that Sikh community as a whole would extend its support to the steps taken by his government to restore normalcy. The latest initiative centers on five priests with extremists sympathies were recently released from jail. The government hopes that they will be able to persuade the extremists to drop their demand for Khalistan or Sikh independence and to foreswear violence so that talks on their other demands can start. This is the first time that the government has put out feelers directly to the militants. [end recording]

Soviet Deputy Chairman Calls on Gandhi

BK190215 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] India and the Soviet Union today signed a protocol envisaging further development of cooperation in the coal industry. The protocol was signed at Delhi by the first Soviet deputy minister of coal industry, Mr A.G. Korkin, and the secretary to the Department of Coal, Government of India, Mr S. Vardhan. During the 2-day talks of the Indo-Soviet working group on coal, the Soviet side expressed its willingness to undertake deep sharp sinking for underground projects on turnkey basis. It has also offered cooperation in experimenting application of specialized Soviet technology for controlling and extinguishing fires in coal mines. USSR will also consider implementation of open cast mining projects on turnkey basis.

The Soviet first deputy prime minister, Mr Y.D. Maslyukov, called on the prime minister, Mr Gandhi, in New Delhi today. They two leaders are reported to have discussed several bilateral and international issues.

Pakistan's NWFP Governor Meets Gandhi, Sharma

BK181623 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] The governor of the NWFP, Mr Fida Mohammad Khan, now on a visit to India at the head of the delegation of the Sir Syed Memorial Society of Islamabad, today called on the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Indian vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma. He extended to them messages of goodwill from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, and Prime

Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, and the people of Pakistan. The Indian prime minister reciprocated the feelings of goodwill and good wishes.

Earlier, during his meeting with the Indian vice president, matters of bilateral interest were discussed.

Official Says No Joint Actions Against LTTE

BK181304 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has refuted the report appearing in a section of the press regarding joint operations by the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] and the Sri Lankan Army to check LTTE violence. He categorically stated that nothing beyond the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement is being done. The minister was giving clarifications on points raised by members on his statement on Sri Lanka in the Rajya Sabha. He clarified that India is always ready for talks provided the LTTE lays down arms and accepts the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. The minister said if the LTTE can give a categorical assurance on these two fundamental issues, talks can start even tomorrow.

The minister's clarifications were repeatedly interrupted by the members from the opposition. Sharing the concern, he said there is no alternative to a solution to the situation in Sri Lanka than that of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Responding to a demand for the withdrawal of the PKF from Sri Lanka, Mr Natwar Singh said it will not remain there a day longer than necessary.

Former Bofors Employee's Son Arrested

BK181412 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] According to PTI, Mr Hersh Chadha, son of Mr Win Chadha [former representative of the Swedish arms firm Bofors], was detained at Delhi Airport this morning on his arrival from the United States. Mr Chadha, along with his father, faces several charges under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act.

Iran

Khomeyni Delivers New Year Message

LD201513 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0939 GMT 20 Mar 88

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, given on the occasion of the Iranian New Year—date not given; recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O Thou who transforms hearts and outlooks. O Thou who regulates days and nights. O Thou who transforms states and conditions, transform our state to the best of states. [preceding sentence in Arabic—a prayer normally said on the start of the new year] May God make the new year a felicitous year for all Muslims, for our nation, and for all of the world's oppressed people. This year the new year has the rare distinction of falling on the eve of the birthday of his holiness the lord of martyrs [Imam Husayn].

We should try to understand what was the motivation behind his uprising, what was his goal, and what kind of life he and the rest of the imams, peace be upon them, led. And we should also understand the significance of 15 Sha'ban [the month preceding Ramadan; the 15th is the alleged birthday of the hidden imam]. From the first day when his holiness the lord of martyrs started his uprising, his motivation was the establishment of justice. His aim was to establish good and to remove evil. His aim was to create justice and remove injustice. All deviations are due to following those which have been forbidden. All evil [preceding word in Arabic—munkarat] would be removed.

We, who are the followers of his holiness the lord of martyrs, should undestand what his motivation was. His whole aim was to forbid evil, for all evil to be destroyed, for that tyrannical government to be removed. On the one hand, when we look at his prayers, the prayers which are for the month of Sha'ban, I do not recall that it has been said that those prayers are for the imams. These Sha'ban prayers are for all. There are many related issues.

There are many prayers and meditations. The main thing is to know how to pray to God Almighty. We are unable to understand what prayers really are. Some ignorant people may think that these prayers which have been revealed and recorded from them are merely for the sake of formality; this is not the issue. The issue is that they are standing in the presence of God, and they know what sublime greatness they are facing. They have gnosis regarding the Almighty, the all-blessed God, and they know what they should do. The holy prayers are such that if a knowledgeable mystic, a mystic whose heart has burned in the love of God, wished to interpret and elaborate for others, this would be very valuable. The same is true of all the prayers of the imams, peace be upon them. You should study and meditate upon the prayers of the lord of martyrs and see what issues are included in those prayers.

The significance of the month of Sha'ban is in the fact that we are now on the eve of the birthday of his holiness the lord of martyrs, and also the birthday of his holiness he who shall arise [preceding word in Arabic—qa'im, a title of the hidden imam], which occurred on 15 Sha'ban.

Therefore, these two birthdays are examples to us, and the New Year has fallen on the eve of these two noble and blessed days, when these two illustrious persons, who both arose for the establishment of justice, were born. His holiness the lord of martyrs, peace be upon him, sacrificed his entire life for the eradication of evil,

the prevention of corruption in government, and for the prevention of an unjust government. He sacrificed his entire life so that the government of tyranny could come to an end and be eliminated and that evil could be eliminated and replaced by good.

When the lord of the age, peace be upon him, arises he will also come for the same purpose. All the prophets who have proclaimed their mission in the world of nature—God only knows their spiritual status, we do not know—but their mission in this world of nature was from the start to confront the satans. This should be a model for all Muslims. Those who are truly Muslims and who are interested in the injunctions of Islam, they should see what the religious ones have done; what was done by Moses, son of 'Imran during his lifetime; what was done by His Holiness Abraham in his life. All of them arose against blasphemy and against tyranny. We should take their lives as our models.

The Muslims should rise against tyranny, against bullying, against evil, in the same way as the noble Iranian nation. One can say that the revolution which took place in our country also brought about a transformation in our youth. They have been transformed from one state to another and have joined Islam. You should pay attention to what you should do, what you should do against the satanists [preceding word in Arabic—taghut, a term usually used by Khomeyni against tyrannical rulers]. In the same way, the lord of the martyrs sacrificed his life and all his belongings. Ever since he left Medina he knew what he was doing. If one were to hear his remarks when he left Medina and came to Mecca or when he left Mecca, one would see that he was aware of what he was doing. It was not as if he merely came to see what to do. He came wanting to take over the government; he came for this purpose, which made a difference. Those who think that the lord of the martyrs did not come for the purpose of taking over the government are mistaken. He came so that the government would be in the hands of people like himself, like the lord of the martyrs.

From the beginning to the end, the uprising of the prophets has been for the sake of confronting those who are tyrannical. This should be our purpose too. See what the big powers and major governments and those who are their satellites and their servants are doing at this moment to the Muslims, to the deprived, to the oppressed. See what they are doing even to their own people. They all claim to be establishing justice on the surface. What sort of justice—the American one? What is American justice? It means anyone who is our servant, we accept them; anyone who gives up the interests of their country, we accept them.

The Soviet Union is the same. All the great powers are the same. We must stand up to all of them. Just like the great victories our youth, thank God, have achieved at the fronts, we must continue like this to the end. There should be no slackening until, God willing, the flag is passed to the flag-bearer. Therefore, our New Year is happening at a time when it provides an example for us by looking at the life of the lord of martyrs, life of the lord of the ages—blessings be upon him. And the lives of all the prophets of the world from Adam to now have been centered on the establishment of a government of justice in the face of tyranny. Unfortunately, they told our nation and all weak nations for so long that government has nothing to do with them and that they should carry on with their prayers and go to the mosque.

Naturally if we only go to the mosque and pray to the great ones, everything will be solved! What is our duty? Going to the mosque and pray, or revolt? Our duty is to sacrifice everything we have for Islam, just as our great ones did. Today you see that Saddam has, thank God, been slapped and is so confused that he does not know what he is doing. He denies all the victories that have been achieved. He does not understand that soon the correspondents, the foreigners, will come and see for themselves. He is such an animal that he uses chemical weapons against his own people and our Guards have to go to their aid.

I must thank this noble nation of ours, in particular those who are active at the fronts or behind the fronts. We must thank them, in particular the youth who have given everything for Islam. You see people who come here, who have given everything and still say: We hope our child will grow up and go to the war. These are ultimatums for us, for those who are sitting at home and moan and tell people not to go.

May God disappoint them, may God disappoint those who oppose us, either deliberately or through ignorance, and awaken them and refresh them in this New Year. May God free all our prisoners, those who are dear to us, dear to our nation, the disabled, those who are prisoners. May God make us understand our duties. I wish someone would come and translate the prayers of the imams, blessings be upon them, and elaborate on them. These prayers need much elaboration. If there are some caring, learned people who can explain them to the people you will see that they cover everything. You see the prayers of Imam Sajjed. While they are prayers, they also cover spirituality, government, and everything else, including the destruction of tyrannical rule.

This has been the (?teaching) of all the imams, blessings be upon them. We have been told for so long that we should not become involved with government that even informed people were fooled. There were some people, aware and involved with our issues, who unexpectedly used to say we have nothing to do with such matters, its not our responsibility, we have other concerns. This is how they brainwashed us. People should realize that whatever the foreigners say is aimed at deceiving us, all of us. Those who follow them also say things in order to force them into their arms. We must be aware in order to avoid slipping.

May God awaken our nation. May God allow our people to reach their goals in health and with honor because that is the goal of Islam, and cut off the hands of all oppressors. May God bless all of us, all Muslims and all the oppressed on this festive day. May God's peace and benediction be upon you all.

Khamene'i's New Year Message to Nation

LD201204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0957 GMT 20 Mar 88

[New Year message from President Khamene'i on 20 March to Muslim nation—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I offer my congratulations to our dear and magnanimous imam and you dear compatriots on the occasion of New Year's Day and the arrival of spring. I especially offer my congratulations to our brave fighters who have managed to obtain such a valuable and immense victory for the nation by their sacrifice, the dear families of the martyrs, prisoners of wars, the wounded and their families, and all those who during this festival day and holy occasion are serving the people in some way. The occasion coincides with the birthday celebrations in Sha'ban [month before Ramadan], the birthday of his holiness Hoseyn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, as well as the birthday of the hidden imam, may God hasten his return and may my soul be sacrificed for him. I ask the Almighty to send His blessings to you, the great and heroic nation, on these holy occasions.

Last year was the year of victory at various fronts. It was a year of resistance and patience by the people. It was a year when the the plotting powers of the world, our international enemies, used all their pressure to force our revolution to its knees. We thank God that they were the ones who were brought to their knees and that our nation emerged from these great experiences victorious and proud. Last year we showed the powerful and proud presence of our nation and our Islamic system on the international scene more than ever before. It was a year when hundreds of millions of humans from around the world watched and praised our nation's struggle against the superpowers. It was a year full of issues and events, and thank God, full of victory and pride. We thank God that at the end of this year and the days before Nowruz, the Lord Almighty gave our nation the biggest victory of the year and gladdened their hearts. We hope that the blessings of the Lord and His special attention will also gladden the hearts of the families of our martyrs.

We should consider the coming year as the year of achieving great desires and hopes because of the good omen of the blessed birthdays of this month. We hope that, God willing, this will be so. It is certain that if our people continue on this difficult road with the same power, same resistance, same patience, and same magnanimity, there can be no result other than victory and the Lord's blessing. The important matter for us is to try to prepare the ground for God's blessings for us. This nation has always tried to do this and has reaped its benefits in the form of the Lord's blessings. We must realize that such victories and progress are the result of God's blessings. God's blessings are not accidentental and free. They come as a result of the purity and enlightenment of a nation and its honest efforts, its crusade. We must remove any animosity among us and strengthen our lines, which as a result of the Lord's blessings, thank God, are already strong. We must try to cut off the plotting hands that are trying in many ways to sow seeds of unhappiness and hopelessness among our nation and disappoint our enemies.

We thank God that today our enemies are highly disappointed and, God willing, the Lord Almighty will disappoint them even further. This year we will hold elections, which are a revolutionary test and a religious duty. We must all actively and responsibly participate in the elections and truly look upon them as a religious duty. The formation of the Majlis is in the hands of our people. When people intelligently and through reliance on religious and revolutionary values elect their representatives, the Majlis will be more effective and successful. We have always needed an effective, successful, and progressive Majlis and, thank God, the Majlis has gained valuable experience and has done valuable work. We must strengthen this Majlis to the best of our ability.

I offer brotherly advice to the brothers and sisters who will be active in election campaigns, whether for themselves or on behalf of others, to make sure that they pay attention to all Islamic values and the revolutionary spirit. Election propaganda activity coincides with festive holidays. God willing, the happiness of the people will not be spoiled by the irresponsible activities of certain elements. They should try to bring people even closer together and warm hearts toward each other. Pushing people away from each other will not have any auspicious results for a nation, whereas the closeness of hearts, the joining of hands, and the unity of voices will allow national progress at all levels. This is the achievement of our nation, thank God, as a result of the leadership of our learned and magnanimous imam and as a result of its awareness. We hope that this is always the case.

I again offer my congratulations to you dear ones, compatriots, brothers, and sisters across the country on the occasion of these happy and auspicious days. May God's peace and benedictions be upon you.

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon Reviews Year

LD182331 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1516 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Friday prayers sermons delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 18 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Today is the last Friday of the year [Iranian year ending March 20] and I take this

opportunity to look at the year that is passing to review briefly this sensitive phase in the history of our revolution. The first of my sermons today will cover this topic.

If we intend to describe this year, the last days of which we are now seeing, we must say that it was a year of major experiments, as well as one in which we confronted foreign and arrogant powers and dominators. Perhaps during the past 9 years since the revolution, we have never had any period like this year, so far as the intensity of struggles and confrontations between our nation and revolution and the world conspiracies are concerned. A continuous matching of powers on several fronts developed between our nation and our revolution, and international powers; in all these phases of muscle-flexing our nation was victorious.

This year is indeed a glorious one in the history of our revolution. Most certainly it will go down in our nation's history as one of the most outstanding years of the post-revolution era. I will briefly review it so you can see what motives and what kind of common conspiracy existed against our nation this year: One of the pronounced characteristics of the Islamic revolution is its militancy against domineering powers. That is, it does not compromise with aggressive and domineering powers in the world. This characteristic naturally places all the aggressive powers of the world—whether Western or Eastern, or major powers or semi-major ones, or indeed their satellites—against this revolution.

This is a characteristic of our revolution. It is not a specific policy adopted by the responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic. Campaigning against tyranny, against world domination, against plunder shows the nature of our revolution, the character of Islam. This cannot be separated from the revolution. Nobody should imagine it is the personal inclination and nature of the leaders, or that the authorities of this regime are responsible for this state of affairs. This is characteristic of Islam. [passage omitted]

Perhaps for the past 200 years or so the great powers of the world were used to dividing up those parts of the world that could be captured. They were like thieves finding loot and dividing it among themselves. They are not friends; if need be, they clash. However, when it concerns booty, they follow a common objective. [passage omitted]

During our own times, which many of you can remember, the great powers have inflicted bitter experiences on African and Asian nations. This sad story has continued. One day the East and West agreed among themselves to enfeeble Egypt against Israel; another day the East and West agreed among themselves for the United States to be free to do anything it liked without being opposed by their Eastern rivals. In return, the West gave concessions to the East. Of course, there are differences among them—not on one or two items but on dozens. That is characteristic of world devourers. However, where the interests of the domineering class of the world is concerned, they are partners. They sit down to divide interests and bargain over them.

Today, too, the two superpowers and the secondary powers have decided to divide the interests of the Third World among themselves. Therefore, they deal with the fate of the nations among themselves. This has become a habit. Unfortunately, a wrong idea has been instilled in the minds of the leaders and authorities of the Third World countries who believe that if they decide to preserve their interests, they must go under the wing of one of the two superpowers to find support and protection. That is why they so easily surrender to the powers. In this way, they can be very easily disposed of, because when the superpowers are closing deals on a high level or looking at their global interests, they no longer pay attention to their promises to anybody who is under the wing of either the United States or the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

When the Islamic revolution succeeded in giving birth to the Islamic Republic, it was like this—as if a big stone was thrown into the wheel of this machine. It disrupted everything. Not only it did not allow any deals over Iran, but it also upset the equation of the world division among the powers. [passage omitted]

Therefore, it is only natural that the great powers should oppose the revolution. The only point that all powers presiding over the world—the United States, the great European powers, the USSR and its satellites—agreed on was that a desirable way to put pressure on the Islamic Republic was this very same imposed war. They thought the imposed war would go one of two ways. Either the Islamic Republic would be defeated, or if not, it would be forced to accept an abject peace that would be, in effect, a defeat—either a military or a political defeat. [passage omitted]

This was the plan set up by great powers against this order that is still opposing supremacy, hegemonism, and acceptance of that order—without results. Last year, toward the end of the year, the epic of grand victories gained by our fighters during "Karbala'-5," as well as fatal blows dealt to the war machine of Iraq—which turned the areas behind the walls and gates of Basra into a great field of death for the hapless Iraqi forces—roused the world from a slumber of neglect. They had hoped that something could be done, but "Karbala'-5" was in fact a very frightening experience for the Eastern and the Western powers. [passage omitted]

Another event was the tragic and unprecedented Mecca incident. This was a very strange event. The Iranian nation placed great significance on this event. However, I must tell you, I swear to God, the importance and profundity of this tragedy has still not become clear for our people. Our people are like those mourning people who, still in the grip of the event, do not realize the gravity of what happened. This is where we are now. We

are still in the grip of the event. In the hajj ceremonies, in God's house, in that safe sanctuary, 400 pilgrims, most of whom were women, were killed with various kinds of savage weapons. Is this an insignificant matter? Is this a small matter? This was another event they created to weaken our morale and make us regret entering the war.

Another event that again had a political and morale aspect was the plan regarding our embassies. We obtained information that a general plan existed throughout Europe, if not in many other places, that they would turn world public opinion against us by subjecting our embassies to diplomatic attack. Our ambassador in France, or someone in our embassy in France, someone in our embassy in Britain, were to be subjected to insults. They made a fuss. They made it a topic of the day. If what they were saying had been true—and it was definitely false—still all this fuss was unnecessary. They wanted to create that sort of situation. They wanted to weaken our diplomatic efforts around the world. They wanted to pretend to the public that this is the kind of nation they are. Their diplomats commit these kinds of offenses. They do such things. This, too, under God's wisdom, with the intelligence of the relevant authorities, resulted in such a way that they regretted it deeply. This was another event, an event in the midst of other such complementary events.

Finally, the matter of the arms embargo plan: The United States with a great show of force, started going everywhere in the world—to Asia, to the Soviet Union, to Europe, to the Persian Gulf countries. Wherever it went, it negotiated, held discussions, obtained support, struggling to foment an atmosphere. All this was done so that they could extract from the Security Council, in any form possible, a plan for an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic. Now, we have said many times, an arms embargo does not need a plan. We are already under an arms embargo, in fact, by the great powers.

It has been a few years since they decided we should not have access to or be able to buy arms. It is the strength of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it is our capability, the grace of God, that has permitted us, despite all these things, to arm ourselves—with results that you can witness today on the battlefronts and in all military areas. By means of an arms embargo plan, they are trying to—I will tell you here again, the great powers were coordinating, they were in unison; well, some of them more so, some less so; some were slower, some faster. However, on the whole, there was unity of intention, unity of thought on this purpose. This, too, was done. Moreover, the latest step taken by the world to put pressure on us, externally—another link in the chain of conspiratorial activities against the Islamic Republic—was this shower of missiles on cities, the resumption of the war of the cities.

If you look from the beginning of the year to its end, we can see perhaps dozens of events related to foreign matters and foreign pressures against our country, all of which are linked. All of it amounts to the expenditure and use of all the world's forceful capacity against the Islamic Republic. This is the year 1366.

For their part, their analysis said that the Islamic Republic would be defeated. They thought at every step that now the Islamic Republic will not be able to last. From an arms embargo, from Resolution No 598, from the arrival of the Americans in the Persian Gulf, from the missile attacks on cities—in all these instances they imagined that each one would be the final blow, the last shot. They even naively expressed this idea. Just a few days ago, before the victorious, proud, divine "Val-Fajr-10" offensive began, the United States said the movement that the United States had started for an arms embargo on Iran had sapped the arms strength of Iran, that it no longer had the strength for a military action. This is their wisdom. This was their prediction. Immediately after these remarks, the great "Val-Fajr-10" occurred and showed how wrong they had been.

Well, this is what they have done. As for our people and our revolution, when I look today at the situation of our own Friday prayers, at the face of our nation, the contacts we have with people, the telephone calls that are made, the reports that are brought to us from the depths of the society, from various circles and sections—all this makes me feel that today, that is, in the last days of this year, despite all the pressure the world tried to muster against us, the spirit of our nation is, in comparison with the start of the year, stronger, more powerful, more joyous, more hopeful, and more determined and intent than ever to continue the battle until victory is achieved and until the United States and global arrogance are brought to their knees. [chants] It must be so. Pressures of life strengthens and tempers a nation. [passage omitted]

Exalted God has granted a great mission to our nation. Enduring this mission requires hardship and it is the same that our nation is enduring. No nation in the world dares to bear its chest and raise its fists against the United States while U.S. fleets arrive at its gates and near its coastal waters. It is only you who have shown such bravery. Brothers and sisters, this was a blessing of God. [passage omitted]

I have no doubt that this nation will be able to bring all great powers to their knees by preserving Islam and its beliefs. May God grant his blessings and guidance to the ummah and its great and lofty imam and its unique leader.

2d Sermon on War Victories

LD182354 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1805 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University on 18 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Before anything else, we must thank Almighty God for these great victories. We must attribute this great blessing to God, in all humility, and thank Him. [passage omitted]

I would like to thank the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters and its commander, our very dear and esteemed brother, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who have really tried and given guidance and made progress and given this great divine gift to our nation. [chants] [passage omitted]

Even now, some Iraqi military troops are hiding in these very cities of Halabjah, Khurmal, Diyalah, and Dujaylah, as well as other cities in the area, and are being sheltered in the various nooks and crannies by the local residents. Despite this, the Iraqi regime is so heartless and malicious that it has subjected these dear and noble people to chemical attacks. The world must make known its reaction to these attacks. If the International Red Cross and the United Nations do not speak up concerning these incidents, they will have lost their prestige. They already have no prestige in the eyes of the Iranian people, but now they will be similarly disgraced in the eyes of the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Let me say a few words about the importance of the operations. The operations were very important from the military point of view. [passage omitted] Our fighters crossed many summits and entered a plain, capturing a number of towns at the foot of the heights. They completely mopped up the plain, capturing four or five Iraqi towns. They also liberated our own Nowsud which had been in control of the Ba'thist regime since the beginning of the war for the purpose of training the counterrevolutionaries, such as the Komeleh [Kurdish dissident group], the Democrats [members of Kurdish Democratic Party] and the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] so that they could infiltrate inside our borders. The town was captured while a number of the counterrevolutionaries were there, and all have now been captured by our fighters. This great operation was done in a short period of time. [passage omitted]

Another interesting thing is that, with all the surveillance systems and evil eyes installed by the arrogant powers in satellites and other places, or even those means employed by the mercenary elements of the Iraqi Ba'thists in the region, the operations were carried out in total secrecy. [passage omitted]

They now claim that they had no forces in the reigon and that they had been evacuated. The Iraqi regime has always been shamed by its contradictory and false statements. They did not inform their public of the operations until 3 or 4 days after the operations had begun. How distanced is this evil and wicked regime from its own people and fearful of its own people? [passage omitted] Today they told me that four brigadier generals who were commanders of various brigades in the region, as well as 4 to 5 thousand others, have been taken prisoner. And prisoners are still being taken. This morning, in the northern marshy area of the region near the lake, some defeated Iraqi troops were trying to flee, along with some Iraqi mercenary elements, such as the Komeleh and the democrats.

They got stuck in the swamps, were rescued by our fighters, and brought here. Some of their commanders jumped into the lake in the hope that a boat would rescue them from the other side. Nothing came, or nothing could come. It is obvious what their fate must have been. From all parts of this lake and from the crevices among the rocks and trees, they are now appearing one by one, group by group, and are being taken prisoner. More than 4 to 5 thousand have been taken prisoner so far, but obviously the number will be far greater. So, who are these prisoners, if Iraq says that it did not have any forces in that area! They are not even ashamed to say that they had no forces there!

When the forces of Islam gained control over the mouth of this region in the north, even though they had not set up sand barriers and not blocked the pathways, some enemy units fell into the trap of our fighters' siege out of sheer confusion, out of sheer ignorance, and were not even aware that they were being trapped. All of them were captured. They had sent forces in here, and never evacuated them! If Iraq did not have troops here, to whom did all this booty, which our fighters took and put to use, belong? It includes more than 150 tanks, some APC's, and nearly 80 cannons. [chants]

Despite all this, he [Saddam] is not prepared to acknowledge these operations. He is not willing. All these cities—Halabjah, Khurmal, and other cities and areas—how can they admit that they have lost all this, after all that fanfare, with all that boasting and bragging before their nation and the oblivious, shallow-minded rulers of the Persian Gulf region? How can they say that this disgraceful defeat has been thrust upon them? Of course, they will have to say it. As with all other incidents, they will be forced to admit their defeat. They will have no other recourse.

It is appropriate for me to mention the extremely despicable role of the international mass media. Why do they not speak up? Why do they conceal such things? We will take the correspondents there, so that they may tour the city of Halabjah and see for themselves. They will be made to inspect the other cities in the area, as we did in the past with other liberated areas. We took them there to visit. However, they will never admit it until they are forced to do so. This shameful blot stains the honor of todays news media. They are not ready to state facts. This shows the level of prejudice of the Zionist propaganda network against our revolution and our nation. They are not ready to note our victories, no matter what. This is a major victory for our fighters. This victory teaches us, inspires us that whenever we rely on the power of our faith, whenever our noble youth and fighting and courageous people set foot on the field of

action—regardless of the world's assessment of the outcome and conclusion of this incident—whenever they enter the arena themselves, it is always like this. Our forces will always triumph over the enemy. [chants]

It is essential that I state here, for the information of the world public, that the UN Security Council has taken its worst position ever as regards these latest occurrences. It has committed treachery against the nations of the world which had focused the eyes of hope on the United Nations. For 16 days the war of the missiles raged. It was initiated by Iraq and everyone knows it. Their radios announced it; everyone admitted it, as did Iraq itself. Even now Iraq's hostile and malicious aggression continues . They did not open their mouths, they did not condemn Iraq. How is it possible that a nation should have even the slightest confidence in such a council, such an international organization? How can they expect anything from us? What is the Security Council for? It is supposed to halt aggression, at least verbally, but it does not do so.

The Soviet Union initially proposed a plan for a ceasefire in the war of the cities in the UN Security Council, but then it retreated and retracted its words. What can we say? Does the Iranian nation not have the right to feel that U.S. policy has the upper hand in the UN Security Council, as well as over its members? They are forced to surrender to the policy of the United States, whatever their reason or weakness. They are forced to side with the United States, despite what they profess. The net result of the sessions of sitting and debating in the UN Security Council was a mere statement, which in itself is tyrannical and inimical to our nation. In the UN Security Council statement issued by the chief of the UN Security Council, Iran and Iraq are addressed in the same tone, and are asked to discontinue the war of the cities. Is this the meaning of the safeguarding of world security professed by the UN Security Council—that the aggressor be addressed in the same tone as the defender? This is exactly what encourages the aggressor.

I hereby categorically state that our nation, our officials, will not accept at any cost what is imposed on us by international organizations. [chants] Once again I repeat firmly that our nation, our government, our officials will never break under any pressure from the United States or the Soviet Union, separately or together. We will continue on our path of chastising the aggressor and toppling the 'Aflaqi regime until the end. [chants]

My recommendation to our dear fighters is to continue the operations. Continue dealing the blows, as our dear and great imam said in his message. The enemy is weak and at death's door. Our brave commanders must not lose control of the operation; they should not lose it. They must not give the enemy the chance to breathe and to think. The people must not forsake the fronts. The youths must pour onto the fronts. The commanders of our combat units must maintain the highest level of organization and take in the volunteers and the mobilization forces who are enthusiastically ready to take part at the fronts.

According to the reports we have received, the number of people reporting and lining up to register for the ranks of mobilization in these last 2 or 3 months far exceeds the number able to be absorbed. This indicates the immense enthusiasm of our people, which should continue.

The trained forces and, particularly the Malek-e Ashtar forces, who are the commanders of the units, the commanders of the regiments and battalions—wherever they are in the country—must get ready and go. They must not let any disruption occur in the command structure of the units.

As you know the monthly mobilization forces are called the 14 immaculate ones. The next mobilization round is called "Aba 'Abdallah Husayn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him". Our youths and those who want to be part of the Imam Husayn Corps will leave on 22 March.

I should point out here that 23 March, which coincides with the birth of His Excellency 'Abd al-Fadl, peace be upon him, is the day for honoring martyred commanders. Many of our commanders have been martyred on the fronts during the past few years. Their martyrdom has made us proud. They have always been honored. They will not be forgotten. However, it was appropriate for a day to be named after them. Twenty-three March is to be named the "Day of Martyred Commanders". On that day, ceremonies will be held by the IRGC, during which the martyred commanders will be praised. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker Visits Damaged Areas of Tehran

LD191123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] In the wake of the Zionist Iraqi regime' barbarous crimes of missile attacks on the people's homes and civilian targets, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council and Majlis speaker, today visited a residential area of Tehran that had been attacked by the Saddam regime. He talked with the families of martyrs and those who suffered from the crime. Relief workers and those in charge of protecting the people's homes and property reported to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani about their work.

During the visit, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave an interview to a Central News Unit reporter. He noted the resisting morale of the Muslim people of the area attacked by the missile. In response to the slogans "Death to America," "Death to Saddam," and "War, war till victory," voiced by the survivors of the missile attack, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The morale

observed among the injured families is the morale of sincere Muslims; we have observed the same morale among the Muslim people in the past.

Expressing his regret at the suffering experienced by civilians, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: It is important at this juncture that those in charge should take more expeditious measures to make good the damage suffered by the people in so far as this is possible. In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted the importance of using the existing shelters and more secure buildings. He stressed: People should use shelters and buildings which are less vulnerable.

On Response to Missiles

LD191257 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council and Majlis speaker, today visited a Tehran site struck by Iraqi missile attacks. [passage omitted]

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] Response has been given by the grace of God. As our people are well aware, a blow has been dealt to Saddam and his aides in the course of the "Val-Fajr-10" and "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-3" operations. They will not be able to compensate for the forceful outcome of these operations, which will remain in the history of the war, God willing. This is one result of the evil deeds recently carried out by the Iraqis. Had the wicked deeds not taken place, it was possible that our operations would not have been carried out. [passage omitted] [end recording]

On Reasons for "Val-Fajr-10"

LD191726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council and Majlis speaker, gave a radio and television interview today in which he answered our correspondent's questions about the latest situation on the war fronts, the results of the "Val-Fajr-10" operation, the situation of the war of the cities, the prospects of the war on the eve of the New Year, the use of missiles in the war by the Iranian Air Force, the admission by the Iraqi foreign minister and international news agencies of Iran's superiority in the war, and the UN secretary general's request to end the war of the cities.

With regard to the latest situation on the war fronts and the outcome of the recent operation of the fighters of Islam inside Iraq, the imam's representative to the Supreme Defense Council said: Tens of thousands of Ba'thist mercenaries were killed or injured in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational zone and more than 4,000 were captured.

He said: "Val-Fajr-10" was an extremely serious, important, and effective move in the course of the imposed war. He added: One of the factors contributing to the speeding up of the operation was the mischief of the Zionist regime ruling over Baghdad in attacking cities and stepping up the war of the cities, and also the mischief of the Security Council and the protectors of the Iraqi regime, from a political and psychological warfare viewpoint. That is why we deemed it necessary to reply to these mischiefs with action.

UN Envoy Meets Security Council President

LD181350 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, held an important meeting with the head of the UN Security Council and explained to him Iran's opinions on the latest Security Council statement and the war of the cities. At this meeting Mr Mahallati said: Twenty days after the renewed Iraqi attacks against our country's residential areas—which have surpassed the record of Iraq's crimes against our country's civilians—the Security Council, instead of taking up any kind of effective, deterrent action, has issued a very weak statement lacking any content which has not had the slightest effect on reducing Iraq's criminal behavior.

He said: In the course of the past few days, the Iraqi regime gave new dimensions to its antihuman crimes and renewed its extensive deployment of chemical weapons. What reason—other than the lack of action on the part of the Security Council in protecting international humanitarian regulations—could leave Iraq's hand free to continue its antihuman crimes and its violation of international laws? He added: The continuation of such behavior by the Security Council will mean that the council will not have any integrity left and that international rules, which of late have become tools for the superpowers, will not carry any credibility.

At this meeting, Iran's ambassador emphasized that the anxiety expressed by some of the members of the Security Council with regard to the great achievements of the fighters of Islam (?demonstrates) that this group of council members still breathe the air of the colonialist era, and have retarded and crippled minds from a political standpoint. They still imagine that the rights of the world's liberated nations along the sacred path of defending their rights can be overlooked in accordance with the satanic desires of global arrogance. He emphasized: Unfortunately, the Security Council, by its indifference to the unprecedented crimes of the Iraqi regime, has taught a lesson to the free countries of the world. This is a bitter lesson for those countries that still pin their hopes on international regulations to gain their rights. Yet it was predictable that the Iranian nation, which due to its great historical experience, relies on divine grace and on the mighty forearm of its selfless fighters.

Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati said: If we are still underscoring the duties of the Security Council in the face of Iraq's crimes, this is because the Security Council may be able to take this opportunity to restore its lost credibility. Unfortunately, the latest Security Council statement showed that the council cannot yet grasp this point. He said: Those Security Council members that have refused to discharge their international responsibilities because they are eager to seek bilateral relations with the rotten Iraqi regime should be aware that in the very near future Iraq will belong to the Muslim people of that country, and that today's silence on the part of the Security Council members vis-a-vis the tragedies brought on by Saddam's regime is condemned by the Iranian and Iraqi nations and by all liberated nations of the world.

The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran added: The Security Council will soon witness greater advances by the troops of Islam and the speedy downfall of the regime of Saddam. We soon will show how the Security Council will endeavor, in a panic, to lose the black file of its deeds in history. However, we promise that this file will remain open forever in the ruins of the bombarded residential areas of our country and for generations to come.

[Signed] The Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, from London

WIH Head on Contradictory Iraqi Statements

LD182135 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Dr. Kamal Kharrazi announced here Friday that Iraqi regime's defeat in the "Val-Fajr-10" operations has caused confusion to the Ba'thist government.

In a televised interview, the WIH head said the Iraqi regime Thursday announced that it has no military forces in Halabjah, Khurmal and Dujaylah and has evacuated its forces from the region while on the other hand it claims that Iraqi forces have full control over the operational region.

"These self-contradictions," he added, "indicate that Iraqi regime has not only faced a serious defeat in the war fronts, but also is engaged with a crisis from military and propaganda point of view."

The Iraqi regime is heavily bombarding residential areas of Khurmal, Dujaylah and Halabjah and the nearby villages with chemical and cluster bombs, Kharrazi said adding that thousands of local people have been injured in the Iraqi chemical bombings.

The WIH head said the Baghdad regime is trying to destroy the said cities in the same manner as it had destroyed Panjwin.

While Iraqi regime claims that it had no forces in the operational region and has confessed that Halabjah, Dujaylah and Khurmal have fallen, it claims the Muslim combatants of Iran are still shelling and bombing the said cities, said the WIH head. "The Iraqi regime does not explain what is the need for bombing the cities which have already fallen," he asked.

The fact is that the Iraqi regime is avenging the people who warmly and jubilantly receive the Muslim combatants, Kharrazi said.

He said the Muslim combatants have so far taken prisoner hundreds of Iraqi forces, including Iraqi Major General Obayd al-Aqawi, the commander of infantry Division 43 of First Iraqi Corps. Some 3,800 captured Iraqi forces have so far been transferred to the rear part of the fronts, he added. This proves baselessness of Iraqi claims and that ther are Iraqi forces in the region, he noted.

The WIH head said, the local people of the liberated Iraqi cities of Khurmal, Dujaylah and Halabjah have witnessed the Iraqi crimes on them over the past few days while not a single bullet was hot at them by the Muslim combatants.

Dr. Kharrazi said Iran will call on International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) to take measure according to international regulations.

IRGC's Rafiqdust on 'Val-Fajr-10' Offensive

LD191302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] IRGC Minister Mr Mohsen Rafiqdust, who has been at the side of the Islamic fighters in the "Val-Fajr-10" operational sector, in an interview with an IRNA reporter stressed the extraordinary significance of the "Val-Fajr-10" offensive as compared with the "Bayt al-Moqaddas" and "Fath al-Mobin" offensives, which demonstrated the rapid mobility of the fighters of Islam and patent weakness of the Iraqi Army when confronting the army of Islam. He said: So far sensitive and strategic regions such as Halabjah, Tuwaylah, Khurmal, Biyar, and the garrison on the eastern shore of Darband Khan, as well as dozens of strategic highlands and the Iranian Nowsud area have been liberated by the IRGC Ground Forces. Our fighters are determined to continue to liberate Iraqi territory with the utmost power and force until the destruction of the Zionist Iraqi regime.

Referring to the Iraqi regime's crimes in attacking those areas with chemical weapons, he added: The Iraqi regime has done this deliberately. What we have heard from Iraqi pilots with regard to their chemical bombing raids indicates that the pilots receive their orders for these raids from the Ba'thist army command centers. Stressing that undoubtedly this Iraqi crime would have a major impact on international public opinion and that regime would become even more disgraced than ever,

Mr Rafiqdust said: People throughout the world will realize that when Islamic Iran seeks to punish the Iraqi regime as the initiator of the war, it is pursuing a legitimate and just objective. We declare that while being prepared to protect the Muslim people in other areas, in particular in Iraqi Kurdistan, we are willing to welcome them with open arms in our own country in order to save them from Iraq's barbarous crimes and chemical bombs, and to prepare them for heroic battle against the Iraqi Ba'thist army.

Expressing the hope that we would be able to provoke [as heard] other Muslim nations to a monumental uprising against the arrogant ones, he said: An Iraqi army colonel who has been taken prisoner by the army of Islam confessed he did not believe the Ba'thist regime would engage in chemical bombing of various Iraqi areas. However, now everything has become clear to him.

In conclusion, the IRGC minister commended the selflessness of the fighters of Islam and thanked them for observing Islamic standards when they liberated the town of Halabjah.

Commander Denies Iraq Repelled Offensive

LD191004 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 19 IRNA—Iran today categorically denied Iraqi claims that an Iranian offensive in the central sector of the battlefront had been repelled on Thursday night.

A senior Iranian commander told IRNA that Iran had launched what he described as "patrol-combat" operations in the Sumar region on Thursday night in which he said an Iraqi battalion had been destroyed and two others sustained partial losses. He said Iran's objective in these operations was not to capture any territory inside Iraq.

The commander said Iraqi Battalion Three of Brigade 435 of Division 22 had been destroyed by 80 percent and Battalions One and Two of the same brigade had sustained some losses. He said at least 400 enemy troops had been killed and wounded in the operations.

Among other enemy losses, he cited the destruction of 15 enemy vehicles as well as two munitions depots. Large amounts of ammunition were also seized by the Ground Forces of the Iranian Army. He said Iranian combatants had returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the operations.

The military commander also ridiculed the Baghdad regime for its propaganda on its victory claims, particularly that the enemy has lost five important towns as well as 132 villages (900 sq. kms) in operations "Val-Fajr-10" in Al- Sulaymaniyah Province. This, he said, indicates the Iraqi Army has badly lost morale creating great and serious difficulties for the Baghdad regime.

Missile Attacks, Ground Operations Continue

Iraqi Sukhoi-22 Downed

LD181216 Tehran IRNA in English 1209 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Val-Fajr-10 operational region, March 17, IRNA—An Iraqi Sukhoi-22 was shot down by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in the northeastern Iraqi province of Al-Sulaymaniyah at 12:08 hours local time Friday (08:38 GMT).

The plane's pilot, identified as Ahmad Shakir Ahmad Helaleh [name as received] bailed out and was later captured by Iranian Muslim combatants.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD181740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Communique issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the center for IRGC and Army operations, on the second stage of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-3" offensive; issued 18 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Steadfast ummah of Islam! Proud and resistant Iranian nation! Following the victorious "Val-Fajr-10" offensive, the self-sacrificing IRGC and the brave mobilization forces—under the command of the Najaf Headquarters of the IRGC's Ground Forces—in continuation of the proud "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-3" offensive, which began in the general area of Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah, relying on God's infinite grace and by seeking aid from the invisible help of His honored one, last night began the second stage of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-3" offensive. By inflicting further heavy blows on the routed army of the Zionist Iraqi regime in the region, they won new victories for your self-sacrificing and enduring nation.

The fighters of Islam, in this stage of the offensive, during a furious battle, succeeded in liberating the following heights: 1,460, 1,490, 1,526, 1,680, and 1,787. They also cut communications to the (Olaqlu) heights and the (Kular) mountain chain, bringing them totally under their control.

In addition, the artillery and antiarmor units of the IRGC's Ground Force, by hunting down the enemy's equipment and facilities and by setting on fire the positions of the defeated Iraqi regime's army, inflicted further losses on the enemy in the liberated heights. They also set ablaze and destroyed more than 10 Katyushas, 2 artillery positions, and more than 30 vehicles, as well as a considerable amount of enemy ammunition.

Following the killing, wounding, and capturing of additional personnel from Saddam's criminal army, the number of dead and wounded enemy officers and troops, since the start of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-3" offensive, exceeded 1,600; the number of evacated and captured Iraqis reached 100.

The self-sacrificing mobilization forces of the Muhammed Army Corps, peace be upon him and his scion, are currently stationing themselves in the operational region and raising the proud flag of dear Islam over the conquered peaks, thus subjecting all the enemy's movements to their total control, crushing them.

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

Communique No 3,145

LD181812 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—Iranian fighters heavily bombed military-economic installations in Al-Mawsil and eastern Basra as well as Iraqi troop-concentration centers in Al-Sulaymaniyah operational region in 23 sorties from 06:10 (02:40 GMT) to 15:50 (12:20 GMT) Friday. The fighters returned to the bases safely after inflicting heavy casualties and damage on the enemy forces, said a military communique here Friday.

The 3145th communique of the Joint Staff Command said three Iraqi warplanes were shot down by air-to-air missiles in a dogfight with Iranian fighters in southern operational region at 01:35 (08:05 GMT Thursday) and 09:32 hours (06:02 GMT) Friday.

The communqiue said an Iraqi Sukhoi-22, was downed by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in western operational region at noon Friday. Its pilot identified as Major Ahmad Shakir Ahmad was taken prisoner.

Artillery units shelled key economic and military installations of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Qal'at Dizah, Naft Khaneh, Mandali, Khanaqin, Banmil, Basra, 'Ali al Gharbi, 'Ali al-Sharqi and Al-'Amarah from Thursday evening to Friday morning inflicting substantial casualties and damage on the enemy, said the communique.

An Iranian patrol unit blitzed Iraqi forces in Kohnehrik heights in Sumar operational region last night, destroying three battalions of Brigade 435 of Iraq's Division 22 by 80 percent, the communique said adding the first and second battalions of the said brigade sustained casualties. At least 400 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, it added.

Some 15 light and heavy vehicles of Iraqi forces as well as two munition dumps of theirs were set afire and a considerable amount of Iraqi equipment were seized by the Muslim combatants in the said region, it added.

In northwestern, western and southern operational regions, it said, exchange of fire raged on being somewhat more intense in Panjwin, Chazabeh, and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, where some Iraqi forces were killed and wounded and some vehicles and some gun-emplacements destroyed.

Activities of engineering forces of the enemy were brought to a halt in Chazabeh, Nahr 'Anbar and Naft-e Shah by heavy Iranian combatants' fire. The Iranian forces checked movements of Iraqi vehicles in Qasr-e Shirin, Naft-e Shah and Sumar inflicting casualties and losses on the enemy, said the communique.

Iranian planes carried out patrol flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, the communique said, adding Iran's naval forces intercepted 10 foreign tankers and commercial ships but allowed them to proceed voyage since they had no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard.

WIH Denies 2 Jets Downed

LD181859 Tehran IRNA in English 1835 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) today refuted claims of the Iraqi regime that its forces had downed two Iranian jets.

All Iranian planes have returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out wide-scale operations against military and industrial centers of the Iraqi cities, said the spokesman.

He noted that Iranian fighters will continue their accurate and destructive operations on enemy targets.

Missile Fired at Tikrit

LD182132 Tehran IRNA in English 2130 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA—A long-range Iranian surface-to-surface missile was fired at Iraqi city of Tikrit, 170 km west of Iran's border town of Qasr-e Shirin at 23:00 hours local time (19:30 GMT) Friday. The missile was fired in response to yesterday's enemy attacks on civilian areas in Iran.

This is the first time an Iranian long-range missile is unleashed against Tikrit. Most members of the ruling clique in Baghdad are from Tikrit.

In a statement issued by the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) the Baghdad rulers were once again warned to discontinue their inhuman attacks on civilians or else Iran's Muslim combatants will continue to severely retaliate.

Baghdad-Turkey Road Sites Hit

LD190914 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—Peshmergas of the Kurdestan Democratic Party of Iraq (KDP) in an ambush attack this week, destroyed two Iraqi bases on the international road linking Baghdad to Turkey.

A statement issued by the Ramadan Headquarters of Irregular Warfare of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) today, said many Iraqi forces were killed and wounded in the attacks.

Meanwhile, four Iraqi trailers were set afire and some other vehicles damaged in the operations.

Missile Fired at Army HQ

LD191033 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—A long-range Iranian surface-to-surface missile was fired at the command headquarters of the Iraqi Army in Baghdad at 13:00 hours local time (09:30 GMT) today. The attack was in retaliation for enemy attacks on Iran's civilian quarters.

An IRGC statement once again warned the Baghdad rulers that the main response to their mischiefs will be given in the war fronts while Iran's deterrent measures will continue at the same time.

1st Long-Range Missile Fired

LD191040 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—The first Iranian long-range missile was fired at eco-military centers in the Iraqi city of Al-'Amarah at 08:02 hours local time (04:32 GMT) today. The attack was in response to recent enemy attacks on Iran's civilian quarters.

Communique No 3,146

LD191941 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—Iran's war communique number 3146 released here Saturday said that two Iraqi warplanes had been shot down on the Persian Gulf Saturday. The first in a dogfight with the Iranian fighters at 12.32 hours local time (09.02 hours GMT), and the second by Iran's surface-to-air fire three minutes later.

The communique said at 18.15 hours local time Friday (14.45 GMT) an Iranian missile was fired into an industrial target in Khanaqin of Iraq and another at 08.02 hours Saturday (04.32 hours GMT) into military and industrial targets in Al-'Amarah both of which inflicted damage to property.

Iraqi military targets in Qal'at Dizah, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Khanaqin, Banmil, Naft Khaneh, 'Ali al-Gharbi, 'Ali al-Sharqi and Basra were also pounded by the Iranian artillery fire Saturday morning.

At 02.30 hours Saturday (23.00 hours GMT Friday) a division of the Iranian infantry troops attacked Iraqi troops near Zobeydah and substantially damaged Battalion Three of Iraqi Brigade Number 112 of its Army Number 34, killing and wounding a large number of the Iraqi troops.

Exchange of artillery fire continued between the Iranian troops and the Iraqis elsewhere throughout the battlefronts Friday and Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar and Marivan.

The Iranian forces shelled two columns of Iraqi troops as the latter were heading for Sayyid Sadiq from Shandari, setting ablaze a number of their tanks and killing and wounding some Iraqi soldiers.

On Saturday Iran's gunboats intercepted five cargo vessels at the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to continue voyage after they were satisfied that the vessels did not have any Iraqi-destined cargo on board.

Meanwhile Iraqi air force on Saturday dropped bombs on the Iranian cities Bakhtaran, Hamadan and Dezful and inflicted casualties on civilians in those cities.

At 10.45 hours local time on Thursday and later on Friday the Iraqi air force dropped mustard gas bombs on the Iranian cities Nowsud and Marivan respectively killing a group of civilians in the two cities.

3 Iraqi MiG's Downed Over Gulf

LD192048 Tehran IRNA in English 2038 GMT 19 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA—Three Iraqi planes were shot down over the Persian Gulf waters today.

An Iraqi MiG-23 which was trying to violate the Iranian airspace, was shot by anti-aircraft fire of the Navy in the north of the Persian Gulf at 12:55 hours local time (09:25 GMT) today. The plane crashed into the Persian Gulf waters and its pilots killed, according to a statement by the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Two more Iraqi planes were shot down at 12:32 hours local time (09:02 GMT), one in a dogfight by an Iranian jet fighter over the port of Bushehr, and the other by anti-aircraft fire.

Shaykh Sha'ban Urges Mecca Pilgrimage Boycott

LD181726 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 18 Mar 88

[Text] Beirut, March 18, IRNA—Head of the Islamic Tawhid [Unification] Movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban strongly lashed out at the Saudis today, and asked Muslims to consider the boycotting of pilgrimage to Mecca this year in case the Saudi regime should choose to ban demonstrations by pilgrims against the ungodly world powers.

Shaykh Sha'ban also proposed that Muslims donate the equivalent of their travel expenses to Palestinians who have risen up against the Al-Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime.

"When the Zionist regime is annihilated then all its regional vassals who have declared a war against Islam and invited U.S. fleets to the region in the vain hope of guaranteeing their existence, would be overthrown," Sha'ban said.